GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

NAGPUR RESIDENCY RECORDS

VOLUME II
(1807—1811)

By

H. N. SINHA, M.A. (ALLD.), PH.D. (LOND.)

Principal, Nagpur Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur; President of the Nagpur University Historical Society; Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Nagpur University; Member, Indian Historical Records Commission; Author of the 'Rise of the Peshwas', 'Sovereignty in Ancient Indian Polity' etc.

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Datto Vaman Potdar

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INTRODUCTION

The Second Volume of Selections from Nagpur Residency Records covers the period from 1807 to 1811, and falls under the following heads :—

(1) Nagpur Residency and Bhonsla's Affairs.
(2) Sambalpur Affairs.
(3) Pindaries.
(4) Nizam's Affairs.
(5) Sindhia's Affairs.
(6) Peshwa's Affairs.
(7) Holkar's Affairs.
(8) Bundelkhand.
(9) Miscellaneous.

The records under Nagpur Residency refer to the transfer of Mr. Elphinstone to Poona as Resident there, and the appointment of Mr. Jenkins as the Resident at Nagpur. Payment of pensions for six months (1st July to 31st December 1809) to Shridhar Pandit amounts to Rs. 16,000, and to Jaswant Rao and Jaikisan Pandit for one year (1st January to 31st December 1809) amounts to Rs. 21,000. These pensions, paid to the Rajah's servants, made them spies of the British, who could always influence the management of Bhonsla's affairs through these traitors. Bhonsla's affairs during this period show some significant developments. It is noticed that the Bhonsla had increased his army on his frontier in order to occupy Hoshangabad and Seoni. In this matter he did not achieve much success. Then the British proposed to station an army for the security of Bhonsla's northern frontier but it was not acceptable to the Bhonsla. The Nawab of Bhopal was subsequently sounded to accept such an army and he was inclined to do so, but no further development took place.

The documents under Sambalpur Affairs contain important information. Nana Saheb, Raghoji's brother, had Ratanpur and Chanda as his appanage. As the ruler of Ratanpur, he controlled the territories of Sambalpur and some of the neighbouring Rajahs. The Rajah of Sambalpur had been captured long before this time and had been retained as a prisoner by Nana Saheb. Now by treacherous means Sambalpur was occupied by Ramachandra Wagh, an officer of Nana Saheb, and the Rani, the sole ruler of Sambalpur, fled away to take shelter with the British. One of the documents pertain to the pilgrim tax levied by the Zamindar of Mayurbhanj in Orissa on the pilgrims passing through his territory to Puri. The amount, thus collected, incidentally shows the number of such pilgrims visiting Puri from the north every year.

Under Pindaries the records reveal interesting facts. Chitoo, the leader of the Pindaries, was determined to devastate Bhonsla's territories because Bhonsla's troops on his north-western frontier had killed his adopted son. In consequence, they spread into

Chhattisgarh and Chanda, and even threatened Nagpur, the environs of which within four miles of it, were subjected to their raids. The British Resident had to call for some reinforcements to his escort from Hyderabad. Chitoo and Karim Khan had declared that they intended to wrest Garha Mandla from the Bhonsla. Though Bhonsla's Commander Sadik Ali Khan defeated a strong contingent of Pindaries on 8th December 1809, within a few months after this defeat they had spread into Seoni and Betul. Tired of their depredations the Bhonsla had at one time thought of giving them a part of his territories in "the vicinity of Nizam's frontier" on the condition that they stopped their ravages. He had also negotiated for a British army to be stationed near his northern frontier as a security measure. These plans did not materialise. Close's advance from Poona through Berar and Nagpur territories up to the Nerbudda, however, proved an effective check to their raids for sometime.

The records further indicate that at this time the Governor-General was eager to prevent Meer Khan, another leader of the Pindaries and an ally of Jaswant Rao Holkar, from securing a foothold in or near the Bhonsla's territories in the north, because of two important considerations. Firstly, Meer khan might carve out a principality for himself in these regions and then form an alliance with the Nizam, and thus become a menace to the security and tranquillity of the British Empire in India. Secondly, the territories, which Meer Khan was likely to acquire, might be conquered and given to the Bhonsla as a compensation for his losses at the Second Maratha War, in order to conciliate him.

Regarding Nizam's affairs the documents of the year 1807 record the dismissal of Rajah Mahipat Ram from the civil authority in Berar, the appointment of Rajah Govind Baksh thereto, and the proposal that a portion of the subsidiary force be stationed permanently at Basim. The dismissal of Rajah Mahipat Ram created some trouble for the British and the Nizam, whose favourite he was. He fled to Sholapur and brought about a *coup d'etat* there. A small British force sent to punish him was defeated with some loss. But ultimately he was driven out and sought shelter with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

On the 8th December 1808 died the aged minister Meer Allum, and there followed for sometime a series of intrigues and counter-intrigues for succession to that office, in which the ladies of the harem played a significant part. Ultimately Munir-ul-Mulk was appointed to succeed Meer Allum. But soon after his appointment he became jealous of his Secretary or Peshkar Rajah Chandulal, and through the instrumentality of his niece and Nizam's favourite wife Chandni Begum created some misunderstanding and suspicion in the mind of the Nizam against Chandulal. Swayed by suspicion that Rajah Chandulal was more eager to serve the British interest than his, the Nizam almost precipitated a minor crisis by refusing audience to the British Resident, when on one occasion the latter sought it. During this period the Nizam, swelling in suppressed suspicion and anger, is reported to have committed some of the most capricious, senseless and even ferocious acts in his daily life. He is said to have himself beaten to death one of his maid servants and to have been cooking his own food with his own hands. But ultimately the cloud of suspicion was cleared away by the patient and conciliatory efforts of the British Resident Mr. H. Russell and Rajah Chandu Lal, and the latter was restored to favour.

Sindhia's affairs during this period show signs of mismanagement in external relations and gradual deterioration in internal administration. His relations with the Rajput states of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, which were never very cordial, worsened under the direction of Bapoo Rao Sindhia and Rajah Ambajee Inglia. At one time, therefore, Dowlat Rao thought of personally intervening in the Rajput affairs. South of his territories he was inclined to pursue a scheme of conquest, that is of Bhopal, in collaboration with the Bhonsla and Holkar. Terms on the basis of which the conquest and partition of Bhopal were to be effected were discussed, but the parties did not go very far in the realization of their ambitions. Internal administration deteriorated due to the mutual jealousies of Ministers. Raja Ambajee Inglia, Sarji Rao Ghatgay and Baboo Rao Angria pulled different ways, and at one time it was reported that Sindhia was going to marry a daughter of Baboo Rao Angria in order to neutralise the influence of Baija Bai, Sindhia's wife, and her father Sarji Rao Ghatgay. The revenue had dwindled from crore and a half to 70 lakhs, and consequently the troops were heavily in arrears of pay.

In May 1809 died Rajah Ambajee Anglia, and in July of the same year Sarji Rao Ghatgay was killed in consequence of a tragic but intriguing incident. Meer Khan, the Pindari leader, acting on behalf of his master Jaswant Rao Holkar, often raided Rajput states in collaboration with the generals of the Sindhia. These interminable predatory activities of the Holkar and Sindhia made the Rajput states gradually turn away from them and seek the protection of the British.

During this period the Peshwa experienced some domestic difficulties due to the defiant attitude of some of his feudatory chieftains like Appa Saheb Patwardhan and Bapuji Ganesh Gokla, and due to the ambitions and unfriendliness of his brother Chimnaji Appa. Sadashiv Mankeshwar, Peshwa's minister, failed to bring about a settlement of the matters under dispute between Appa Saheb and the Peshwa on the one hand and between Gokla and the Peshwa on the other. The timely intervention of the British Resident, however, resulted in the peaceful termination of the matters at issue between the Peshwa and the Gokla, but it failed in regard to that between the Peshwa and Appa Saheb Patwardhan. Subsequently, a settlement was effected only by a threat of force.

Chimnaji, Peshwa's brother, is not during this period inclined to live on cordial terms with the Peshwa. When Jaswant Rao Holkar proposed a visit to Jejoori on a pilgrimage and wanted to pay respect to the Peshwa at Poona it was resisted by the Peshwa and not liked by the Resident. But Chimnaji seems to have entertained the proposal, and was in correspondence with the Holkar, for reasons of forming a sort of consipiracy with him against the

Peshwa. Ultimately, however, the proposed visit of the Holkar did not come off. The Peshwa, during this period, wanted to appoint a Sir Subahdar for the management of what he claimed as his possessions in Hindustan, like Kalpi, Jhansi, Orchha, etc. The British Resident, Colonel Close, resisted his claim on the ground that it implied a breach of the treaty of Bassein. On the same ground Elphinstone, the successor of Close at the Poona Court, objected to the proposed transfer of Gara Kota by the Bhonsla and Sindhia to the Peshwa, without the previous sanction of the British Government. In this connection Elphinstone tried to impress upon the Peshwa that by the treaty of Bassein Sindhia and Bhonsla became "foreign princes", and therefore Peshwa's relations with them became a subject of approval by the British Government.

Other events that occurred during this period are the death of the baby son and the only child of the Peshwa, and of Yashoda Bai, the widow of Madho Rao Peshwa, and the disaffection of the Southern jagirdars and specially of Abdullah Khan, the Nawab of Sanvanoor. Abdullah Khan was defeated and captured, and later blown from the mouth of the gun. The depredation of the Pindaries and the claims of the Peshwa for Chauth from the Nizam are also referred to. The last document in this section is a dispatch from the Chief Secretary Edmonstone, in which he discusses in a masterly way the good and bad effects of the system of Subsidiary Alliances.

Holkar's affairs during this period were much in a mess. Owing to his bad health and mental condition his Pindary collaborater Meer Khan was gaining ascendancy in his Government. He was, in combination with Sarji Rao Ghatgay, busy for some time in Rajputana committing depredations in Jaipur territories. Jaswant Rao had given up the idea of interfering in the affairs of Rajput states. His army had dwindled in strength like his revenues, and he himself was fast sinking in health. He is said to have been possessed, and certainly showed signs of delirium during his last days. He wanted to go to Jejoori on a pilgrimage to be cured of his disease, and in that connection had written a letter to Chimnaji Appa in which he professed deep loyalty to him in preference to the Peshwa. "I have lately dispatched," he wrote, "my brother Meer Khan and I have an army consisting of near a lac and half of troops. The pleasure of the Rao Sahib (the Peshwa) does not appear to be what it ought to be. . . . I must take courage, I am looking with hope towards you." (Page 558.) Soon after this he died (1811) and Tulsi Bai in league with a few others invited Meer Khan to become the head of the Government. Malhar Rao. a minor son of Jaswant Rao, succeeded and applied for a robe of investiture to the Mughal Emperor at Delhi. This application was resisted by the British Resident Charles Metcalfe on the ground that "under existing order of things, an investiture from the throne of Delhi could add no validity to the succession of Malhar Rao".

In regard to the "Bundelkhand Affairs", only two important facts are referred to in these documents. One is that Shahnagar situated in the Zamindary of Shahgar (page 569) was claimed by the Bhonsla of Nagpur. But that claim was untenable and the

Zamindary was handed over to the Rajah of Punna. The other fact referrred to, is the dispute between the Chief of Garha Kota and the Bhonsla. The latter was besieging Garha Kota, but when the troops of Sindhia under Jean Baptiste arrived they abandoned it and thus let it fall into the hands of the Sindhia.

Under "Miscellaneous", a number of documents contain interesting information pertaining to the currencies and their rates of exchange, Hindu-Muslim riots at Delhi and Benares, remission of duties levied on the pilgrims at Gaya and Allahabad, and prices of foodgrains in Nagpur territories. The two Hindu-Muslim riots briefly reported in the documents in pages 576—79 bring out the fanatical intolerance of the Muslim population of these cities about one hundred and fifty years ago.

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अभ्यासिका
दाखल अंक ....
पुस्तक ....
.... तारीख ....

कै. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार
ग्रंथ संग्रह

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NAGPUR RESIDENCY
AND
BHONSLA'S AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—Elphinstone informs Col. Close, Resident at Poona, of his having delivered over charge of Nagpur Residency to Richard Jenkins.

FROM—M. S. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Nagpur, the 25th January 1807.

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day delivered over charge of the Residency at Nagpur to Richard Jenkins, Esquire.

Letter No. 2.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla had made considerable additions to his army on the frontier for the occupation of Hoshangabad and Seoni. The Sindhia had ordered the evacuation of Seoni but the Killedar refuses to do so.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Nagpur, the 15th May 1807.

* * * *

The Raja has lately made and continues to make considerable additions to the force of his armies on the frontier and is, in a great degree, concentrating them in the vicinity of Hoshangabad. I am informed by the Ministers that the Raja has now great hopes of being put in possession of Hoshangabad and Seoni, and that a force is actually before the latter place in consequence of express orders from Sindhia for its evacuation. It appears however that the Killadar refuses to obey them. The nature of the agreement between this Government and Sindhia on the subject I do not correctly know, but it is said to be of a pecuniary nature. Engagements of this description, the Raja is not very forward to perform, and indeed I should conclude the inclination, if not the power of Sindhia, to perform his part to be at least problematical. That engagements of some nature however have been negotiated, appear to be the more probable as the Raja a short time since had not only put a stop to all fresh levies of troops, but had even issued orders respecting the diminution of his force, with a view to the rainy season, and the power of the Pindaries has been greatly diminished by the captivity of their chiefs, although it is likely they will join with Wazeer Mohammed Khan in opposing the progress of the Raja's troops.

Letter No. 3.—Mr. Baillie informs that on 20th July he took charge of the Residence at the Court of Nawab Wazir of Oudh.

From—J. BAILLIE, LUCKNOW.

To—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Lucknow, the 20th July 1807.

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day taken charge of the Residency at the Court of His Excellency the Vizir.

Letter No. 4.—The letter intimates that Lord Minto took the oath of office on 31st July and that Barlow became third in Council.

From—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 31st July 1807.

I am directed to inform you that the Hon'ble the Court of Directors have been pleased to appoint the Right Hon'ble Lord Minto to the office of Governor-General of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, Lieutenant-General George Hewett to be second in Council and Commander-in-Chief of all the Company's forces in India, Sir George Hilaro Barlow, Baronet and one of the Knights of the most Hon'ble Order of the Bath, to be third in Council, and John Lumsden, Esquire, to be the fourth in Council.

2. Conformably to the aforesaid orders of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, the Right Hon'ble Lord Minto has this day taken the usual oaths and has taken his seat as Governor-General and Sir George Hilaro Barlow, Baronet, and John Lumsden, Esquire, have taken the usual oaths and their seats as Members of the Council of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

Letter No. 5.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla's army had crossed the Nerbudda for a siege of Hoshangabad in co-operation with Sindhia's troops. Nana Sahib is joining Sindhia for wresting the territory of Bhopal from its Nawab and for having half of it when conquered. He has sent Keshao Govind his manager of Chhatisgarh to Jubbulpore with a sum of money meant for the purpose. He is raising two battalions of Infantry in Nagpur to establish his authority in Sambalpur region. He has been thinking of reinstating the captive Rajahs of Sambalpore regions in their own zamindaries.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Nagpur, the 28th August 1807.

* * * *

No transaction of very material importance has occurred since the date of my last despatch. The Rajah's army on the Nerbudda has been ordered to cross that river for the purpose of co-operation with Sindhia's troops in the long-projected siege of Hoshangabad. The forces of this Government however are so ill-paid that the army has hitherto refused to march. The attention of this Court appears to be almost exclusively directed at present to the affairs of Bhopal, and it is now said that Sindhia has been induced through the negotiations of Vinkojee Pidree a Banker much in Nana Sahib's confidence and now in Sindhia's Camp to promise half of the territories of Bhopal to Nana Sahib. The discovery of his brother's intrigues for this purpose caused considerable displeasure to the Rajah, but the influence of his mother has been successfully exerted to appease his resentment and even to extort the Rajah's approval of the arrangement. Nana Sahib is said to have actually advanced to Sindhia a considerable part, if not the whole of sum which has been fixed as the price of his share and which is said to be two lacks and a half of Rupees; and this is rendered probable by a late excursion of Keshao Govind Nana Sahib's manager in Chateesgarh to Jubbulpore, where he is said to have carried a considerable convoy of treasure.

Nana Sahib is raising at Nagpur two battalions of Infantry intended I understand to form part of a force which is destined to establish his authority in Sambalpore, after the Dasera festival. This object he has hitherto found it impossible to accomplish by negotiation, and part of his plan is now represented to be to reinstate the Rajahs whom he has in confinement at Chanda in their respective zamindaries. Nana Sahib also has been persuaded to postpone his own departure to Chanda until the conclusion of the rainy season.

Letter No. 6.—Jenkins reports that the siege of Hoshangabad had been started by the Bhonsla's troops. Bukshee Ghulam Haidar Khan, lately dismissed from Nizam's service, had arrived at Nagpur with 700 hrose and 300 foot to offer his services to the Bhonsla. Nana Sahib had raised an army in Nagpur and had directed it against the Rajah of Bustar who had disclaimed his dependence on Nana Sahib.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Nagpur, the 11th October 1807.

* * * *

The Rajah's army commanded by Ganpat Rao which was lately cantoned at Shahpore has advanced to the vicinity of Hoshangabad, and batteries have been erected and advanced in three different directions to within a short distance of the fort against which they are said to have been playing with some effect. An inundation of the Nerbudda which carried away one of the principal bastions and otherwise caused considerable damage to the walls appears to have been the signal for this attack; but the principal hope of success seems to rest in the small number of the garrison and the scarcity of grain and other provisions in the fort, which may induce a capitulation before the Nerbudda becomes fordable, and expectations are entertained at Nagpur, of its speedy fall. The Pindaries are however prepared to unite with Wazeer Mohammed Khan in an attempt to raise the siege, and as the Nerbudda will shortly begin to be fordable there appears little doubt that those freebooters will then commence their operations either by cutting off the supplies of the besieging army or by making incursions, into the Raja's dominions.

The force of Sudeek Ali Khan has in part crossed the Nerbudda, and will probably join in the siege, by investing the place on the side which is protected by that river. No force from Sindia has yet joined the Rajah's troops. By my latest accounts the Army of Ganpat Rao including the troops of Devi Singh formerly in the Nizam's service is said to consist of 2,900 Infantry with 24 guns and about 5,000 horse and that Sadik Ali Khan to contain 5,000 Infantry with 28 guns and 5,000. horse principally Pathans. The Infantry is armed in part with musquetes; there are also several corps of Arabs and of Sikhs. His heavy guns remain near Chouragarh.

Since the date of my last dispatch Bukshee Ghoolam Haidar Khan who was lately dismissed from the Nizam's service has arrived at Nagpur with about 700 horse and 300 Infantry to offer his service to this Government. His terms are said to be too high for the Rajah but some partial engagement has been concluded with him. He will probably proceed to Sindhia's Camp should he be finally unsuccessful at Nagpur. Any alarm from the Pindaries will be likely to have an effect in his favour.

Keshao Govind, Nana Sahib's manager in Chattisgarh, arrived three days ago at Nagpur, and Nana Sahib has been of late engaged in raising troops in this quarter and in different parts of the country. At Nagpur he has already raised 900 Infantry and 200 horse which have marched for Chanda and 1,500 horse and foot with 4 guns besides 500 newly raised Goosain Infantry have proceeded in that direction from the vicinity of Ratanpore. The original plan of Nana Sahib was said to be directed to the occupation of Sambalpur for which purpose the new levies were set on foot, but the late refractory conduct of the Bustar Chief is mentioned as the cause of the change in Nana Sahib's intentions which these movements would indicate. The object now in view is stated to be the punishment of the Bustar Rajah who by late accounts has disclaimed all dependence upon Nana Sahib, and committed depredations on his villages in the vicinity of that country. Nana Sahib continues unwell, and I do not hear that he is altogether determined when to proceed himself to Chanda. In a short time his intentions will probably be decided.

Letter No. 7.—The short letter conveys the information that Elphinstone had "just returned to Nagpur".

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE OFFICER COMMANDING, GOVERNOR'S BODY-GUARD.

Nagpur, the 4th March 1808.

I have the pleasure to enclose the acquittance roll and account of expenses of the party of the body-guards for the month of February, and to inform you that I have drawn as usual for the amount Sicca Rupees 535-3-0.

The Hon'ble M. Elphinstone who is just returned to Nagpur will henceforth continue to draw for the expenses of the Jemadar's party in favour of his Agents in Calcutta, Messrs. Colvins and Bazett. I beg to add that I have had every reason to be pleased with the conduct of the Jemadar and his party since their arrival at the Residency.

Letter No. 8.—Jenkins is informed that as Elphinstone had been deputed on a public mission to the camp of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, he was to act as the Resident at Nagpur as before.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 28th March 1808.

The Governor-General in Council having been pleased to depute Mr. Elphinstone on a public mission to the Camp of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, I am directed to inform you that he has been directed to deliver over charge of the Residency at Nagpur to you and to desire that you will act in the capacity of Resident until further orders. You will draw the allowances assigned to you on the occasion of your formerly being appointed to officiate in that character.

2. The Governor-General has addressed a letter to the Rajah of Berar, notifying Mr. Elphinstone's mission and your appointment to the charge of the Residency at His Highness's Court. That letter will be transmitted from the Persian Department.

Letter No. 9.—The letter acquaints Jenkins with the facts that led to the negotiations between the British and Raja Ranjit Singh of Lahore; how Ranjit Singh took advantage of the British request for co-operation against a possible French invasion through Persia to impose his authority over the chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jumna; and how ultimately he was forced to withdraw.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 27th January 1809.

As the Military preparations on the north-western frontier of the British dominions have no doubt attracted the notice of the Court at which you reside, the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council deems it proper that you should be apprized of the occasion of this assemblage of troops with a view to enable you to satisfy such enquiries as you may receive on this subject.

2. In consequence of the prevailing report of the design on the part of France to attempt the invasion of India, by the aid or connivance of Persia through the territories of the King of Kabul and the Rajah of Lahore, the Governor-General in Council deemed it proper to dispatch Embassies to the courts of Kabul and Lahore for the purpose of apprizing them of this mediated

design of warning them of the danger to which their dominion would be exposed by the eventual approach of a European army destined to invade the British possessions in India, and of inducing them from motives of common interest to co-operate with the British Power in opposing the utmost practicable resistance to the advance of the enemy.

3. The Envoy to Lahore shortly after his arrival in the camp of the Rajah who advanced from his capital to receive him, explained the object of his mission. This communication appeared to produce the strongest impression on the mind of the Rajah who manifested his previous ignorance of the designs of the French, acquiesced in the necessity of mutual co-operation as against a common danger, and generally assented to the Envoy's propositions on that subject. The Rajah however subsequently brought forward propositions on his part, which evidently showed that his acquiescence in a system of alliance and co-operation with the British Government was directed to objects of personal interest and ambition. These propositions were, that the Rajah's sovereignty over the territories of the Sikh Chiefs between the rivers Sutlej and Jamuna, the establishment of which had long been the favourite object of his ambition; but from the prosecution of which he had hitherto been withheld by a respect for the paramount right of the British Government, should be formally acknowledged and that the British Government should abstain from any interference in his differences with the state of Kabul and in his views of conquest and exaction in the territories subject to the Afghan dominion. The envoy properly urged the irrelevancy of these propositions to the objects of his mission but without success and the Rajah finally consented to refer the question to the decision of the British Government.

4. While the conferences on these subjects were pending the Rajah suddenly declared his intention to march with the whole of his force towards the Sutlej and actually proceeded without acquainting the Envoy with his design, finally crossing the river with the intention of enforcing the submission of the Sikh Chiefs, notwithstanding his previous consent to refer the question of his title to Sovereignty over them to the decision of the British Government.

5. The assurances of the Rajah that the primary subject of negotiation would be resumed at every successive station induced the Envoy to attend the Rajah during his progress through the territories of the Sikhs although the Rajah did not scruple pending the reference to this Government to bring portion of that territory under his authority.

6. Under these circumstances it became necessary to determine the course of conduct to be pursued towards the Rajah of Lahore. From the information communicated by the envoy it manifestly appeared that the danger to which his dominions would be exposed by the approach of an invading army had made no

real impression on his mind. That the views of the Rajah in acceding to proposals of co-operation against that danger, were to obtain the concurrence of the British Government in the prosecution of his ambitious schemes. That the Rajah was actuated by an irreclamable spirit of jealousy and suspicion utterly inconsistent with that sense of common interest and common danger which must constitute the only solid basis of alliance between the two states for purposes of mutual defence and that the habits and disposition of his Government were entirely military and his views exclusively those of conquest and inordinate ambition.

7. It became necessary to determine in the first instance whether to declare the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna to be under the protection of the British Government or to acquiesce in the Rajah's extension of his dominions to the frontier of the British possessions in the expectation of inducing him cordially to unite in a system of co-operation against the eventual approach of an invading Army.

8. The decision of the question principally turned on two points—

(1) Sequences with reference to the interests of the British Government of the approach of the Rajah's dominion to our own and the degree in which the honour and justice of the British character would be affected by refraining from the exercise of those paramount rights over the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna to which the British Government succeeded by the establishment of its dominion in the North of Hindustan, rights unequivocally recognized by those chiefs who had earnestly and repeatedly urged their claim to our protection against the violence and usurpation of the Rajah of Lahore.

(2) The degree of security or moral assurance which the British Government would possess with regard to the Rajah's adherence to the obligation of the engagements which he might contract by conceding the demands which he had rendered the condition of his entering into engagement, of the nature proposed by this Government.

9. After mature deliberation the Governor-General in Council was decidedly of opinion that even without reference to the invasion of India, the approximation of the Rajah of Lahore's military dominion to the Company's possession and the introduction of his power into Hindustan in the form of substantive territories, I state, would expose to hazard the tranquillity and eventually even the security of the British possessions. That the danger would be augmented by its coincidence and probable connection with French invasion. That the concession of the Rajah's demands would afford no security to his co-operation against the invading enemy but most probably tend to animosity and extend the objects of his ambition. That the credit of the British Government was in a considerable degree concerned in affording protection to the southern Sikh Chiefs who by the prescriptive relation in which they uniformly stood towards the ruling power in

the North of Hindustan were in fact the dependants of the British Government and over whom the Rajah of Lahore possessed no right of supremacy or control. That in addition to these disadvantages of the solicited concession an ambitious and military power aggrandized by the conquests which that concession would produce would be substituted upon our frontier for a confederacy of friendly chiefs rendered grateful for our protection and interested in our cause whose territories Government could at all times command for purposes of defensive arrangement against the danger of a French invasion and that Government had no alternative but either to declare and enforce if necessary, a resolution to confine the Rajah of Lahore's dominion within its ancient limits or to incur all the evil, discredit, and embarrassment of a contrary determination without a reasonable expectation of any adequate advantage.

10. The Governor-General in Council therefore resolved to extend the protection of the British power to the Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna against the encroachment of the Rajah of Lahore, to require the Rajah to withdraw his army to the northern side of the former river, and to establish a military post near the frontier of the Punjab not only for the security of the southern territories, but as an advanced post to be connected with future defensive arrangements against the approach of an enemy from the quarter of Persia. The credit of the British character and reputation also, which would materially be affected by our submission to the Rajah's ambitions and unjustifiable views, and the support of the dignity of the British Government which the conduct of the Rajah had publicly insulted by employing his army in the subjugation of the territories of the Sikh Chiefs while the question of his being at liberty to extend his dominion over them was with his own consent under reference to this Government and by a demeanor towards the envoy in many points inconsistent with the obligations of respect and in some even subversive of the privileges of that sacred character furnished an additional and powerful motive to the adoption of this course of policy.

11. The resolution was accordingly announced in instructions to the Envoy and in a letter to the Rajah who in mean time continued to subdue the territory of the Sikhs, advancing his army to within a short distance of the Company's frontier exacting from them pecuniary contributions and finally compelling the principal among them to enter into engagements of allegiance to his power.

12. During a considerable period of the time employed in these proceedings the Rajah of Lahore, evidently with a view to indicate that those proceedings were sanctioned by the British Government induced the Envoy by a full persuasion and by continuing a delusive negotiation to attend his Camp.

13. The possibility of the Rajah's undertaking an expedition against the Sikhs to the southward of the Sutlej had been foreseen and the Envoy had been directed in that event to abstain from

attending the Camp of the Rajah. But the assurances afforded at every successive march of a decisive reply to the propositions with which the envoy was charged and the sense which the Envoy entertained of the importance of prosecuting the object of his mission, led him to deviate from the instructions which he had received, so far as to accompany the Rajah during a part of his progress to the Southward. The Envoy however at length demanded that a position should be fixed for the continuance of the mission until the Rajah's return, a demand with which the Rajah reluctantly complied.

14. In the course of the negotiation above mentioned the Rajah proposed the execution of two separate treaties one stipulating generally for perpetual amity and friendship between the two states; the other containing the obligations of co-operation against a European enemy, but repeated his consent that the question respecting his pretension to sovereignty over the Sikhs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna should be subject to the decision of the British Government. The Rajah was anxious to conclude the first of those Treaties with a view to preclude the danger which he apprehended from the revolt of his disaffected subjects and subjugated Vassals who, he had reason to fear, would take advantage of any opportunity favourable to their emancipation from the authority of his Government. With respect to the second treaty the Envoy had required his assent to form stipulations for the introduction of our troops into his country and the establishment of Depots which however the Rajah clogged with conditions rendering them nearly nugatory. After much discussion these stipulations were adjusted between the Rajah and the Envoy; but the Rajah then declined executing that Treaty unless assured of our acquiescence in the demand which had been referred to the decision of the British Government and all further negotiation was in consequence suspended.

15. Previously to the Envoy's receipt of the instructions of the Government announcing its resolution to protect the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna, and directing him to require the Rajah to withdraw his troops and to relinquish the conquests which he had made with so much rapidity and with so little regard to the rights of those whose possessions he had usurped, as well as with so little respect for this Government, the Rajah had resolved to return with the main body of his troops to his own dominions and although immediately apprized by the Envoy (then at a distance from the Rajah's position) of his receipt of the orders of Government on the point referred to its determination, the Rajah systematically eluded a meeting and by rapid marches reached his capital followed by the main body of his army but leaving a considerable force in the places of which he had possessed himself in the course of this expedition.

16. The Envoy having followed the Rajah to his Capital communicated the purport of his instructions to the Rajah who however without a compliance with the just demands of the

British Government evaded the execution of them and even issued orders for reassembling his troops. After a considerable period of evasive negotiation the object of which was to effect a compromise of our demands and either to obtain the renunciation of our resolution to establish a military post near the frontier of the Punjab or to induce the British Government to fix its position in consent and concurrence with him the Rajah finally signified his assent to the requisition for the removal of the troops which he had left between the Sutlej and the Jamuna.

17. In the mean time the necessary arrangements were adopted for the formation of the detachment at Kurnal and other corps were advanced to the frontier of our possessions for the purpose of supporting the detachments; if circumstances should render it necesary and to be prepared for the possible event of a rupture with the Rajah of Lahore and instructions were issued directing the advance of the Detachment to its intended position and authorizing the expulsion of the Rajah's troops from the territory between the Sutlej and the Jamuna by force of army if the Rajah should either refuse to withdraw them or should endeavour to procrastinate and evade a compliance with that requisition and by the latest accounts the detachment was prepared to advance from the Karnaul for the purposes above described.

18. The favourable intelligence recently received from Europe, justifying a confident belief that the designs of France against the British possessions in India, if not entirely relinquished must at least be suspended for a long period of time the necessity of any immediate arrangements of precautionary defence against the danger of those designs is superseded. The object of the detachment advancing into the territories between the Sutlej and the Jamuna is therefore now limited for the protection of those territories against the future encroachment of the Rajah of Lahore and as this object may be secured by . . . for the detachment. . . . position less advanced than was originally proposed, Government has resolved to adopt that modified arrangement which as removing one source of the apprehensions which the . . . of the past transactions are calculated to excite or keep alive in the mind of the Rajah of Lahore, with regard to the extent of our designs, may be expected to facilitate an accommodation of subsisting differences and to promote the continuance of the relations of amity between the two states.

19. To these unfounded apprehensions indeed the conduct of the Rajah in assembling his troops and in manifesting an apparent disposition to withhold a compliance with the just and moderate requisitions of the British Government, must be ascribed. The Governor-General in Council therefore entertains a confident expectation that the measures which have been adopted to relieve these apprehensions, will preclude the recurrence of hostilities with the Rajah of Lahore.

20. Although with a view to convey to you a general knowledge of the origin and progress of the late transactions, it has been necessary to state in some degree of detail the sentiments and reflections which guided the measures of Government you will of course understand that it is unnecessary in any communcation with the courts at which you reside, on this subject to detail the arguments under consideration herein explained; your own judgment will point out to you those facts and the circumstances which it may be proper to state on such.

Letter No. 10.—In the letter Edmonstone gives the views of the British Government regarding interference in the dispute between Raghojee Bhonsla and Meer Khan and concludes "that Government will not consider its interference to be admissible under circumstances of the most unquestionable exigency as connected with the tranquillity and security of the British dominions or those of his allies".

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 8th July 1809.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 11 of the 12th ultimo respecting the proceedings and supposed designs of Meer Khan and the effects of them on the condition of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla.

2. The communications contained in that dispatch are considered by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to be highly important with regard to the question which they involve on the subject of the interposition of the British power in the event of the Rajah demanding our assistance. I am directed to observe that it is impracticable at the present moment to form a determination applicable to all the circumstances which may attend the cases at the period of its occurrence.

3. You are well aware that any interference in the disputes of foreign states unconnected with us by the obligations of defensive alliance is adverse to the general principles of policy prescribed by the Legislature, and by the Hon'ble the Court of Directors and uniformly observed by this Government; at the same time circumstances might certainly arise to render such interference the measures of preventing rather than of causing the interruption of the tranquillity and security at present enjoyed by the British Government and its allies, and consequently our withholding it, inconsistent with the object of a general system of forbearance.

4. The particular case to which your dispatch relates appears to be connected with results practically extending far beyond the interests which immediately affects. It is necessary to ascertain

with more precision and certainty than is at present practicable the probable consequences either of our interposition or forbearance. A knowledge of them may be expected to be developed by the progress of events and transactions, and his Lordship in Council therefore deems it necessary to suspend a final determination on the important question which you have submitted to his consideration, but I am directed generally to observe that Government will not consider its interference to be admissible excepting only under circumstances of the most unquestionable exigency as connected with the tranquillity and security of the British dominions or those of its allies.

Letter No. 11.—In this letter Jenkins describes his discussions with the Bhonsla and his ministers about the general policy determined by the Governor General against Meer Khan's attack on Bhonsla's territories. The offer of Military assistance to be given to the Bhonsla could be accepted by him only if it was without any condition. That was the view of the Bhonsla.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Camp at Ramtek, the 29th October 1809.

Late on the night of the 27th I received by express, the private communications of Mr. Edmonstone on the subject of the Governor-General's resolutions with regard to Meer Khan, and the measures in train for the relief of the Rajah under the general control, of Colonel Close and directing me to communicate them to the Rajah without waiting for my official instructions in the manner which might appear calculated to produce the most favourable impression upon his mind. By the same Dawke I received a letter from the Governor-General for Meer Khan.

2. I lost, not a moment in intimating to the Durbar that I had communications of importance to make to the Rajah, and when I attended His Highness about 9 o'clock yesterday morning at his tents I found the Rajah attended by Goojabba, Shreedhar Pandit and others of his principal ministers.

3. After the usual compliments had passed, agreeably to an arrangement which I had proposed in my note, to have a conference with the minister before communicating the subject of my visit to the Rajah, Shreedhar Pandit and myself retired to a separate tent. My object was to have an unreserved conversation on the subject with the minister, and to judge from its result of the best mode of opening the business to the Rajah. I intended indeed to have first paid a separate visit to Shreedhar Pandit but the Rajah's curiosity seemed to be too much excited to hear any particular delay.

4. When we were alone, I opened the subject to Shreedhar Pandit in nearly the following terms, which I had committed to writing on the preceding night.

5. The arrival of Meer Khan in this quarter with a large army, his proceedings towards this Government, and the occupation of Garrah Mandla by his troops, have been made known by me from time to time to the Governor-General, and have excited the greatest concern in His Lordship's mind. The Governor-General has also understood that Meer Khan is preparing to cross the Nerbudda in order to the prosecution of designs tending not only to the plunder and devastation of the Rajah's hereditary dominions on this side of that river, but to the entire subjection of those dominions to his authority. The reports on this subject have created great uneasiness in the mind of the Governor-General,

6. The Rajah knows and has always acknowledged the real and disinterested regard which the British Government has ever shown to His Highness's state and on the present occasion the Governor-General has viewed with the most painful suspence the progress of an adventurer like Meer Khan in extending his arms over the possessions of the Rajah's ancient and respectable Government. The preservation of regular and long established states, opposition to innovation in the existing political system, and particularly the support of a friendly power such as that of the Rajah at a period of danger and distress are motives which every wise and liberal Government must ever have in view in its general policy. Aggrandizement and extension of dominion are not the objects of the British Government, and as long as the present discussions between Meer Khan and the Rajah could be considered of a nature entirely referable to internal concerns between this Government and that of Holkar, the British Government true to its principle of avoiding all unnecessary interference with the disputes of foreign powers, which might affect their just rights, and independence, has kept silence.

7. In the actual state of affairs however, a longer forbearance would not only be a desertion of its own interests and those of its allies, but with regard to the Rajah might be considered unfriendly and illiberal views, and might have waited until the necessity of the Rajah's affairs had compelled him seek for its aid against Meer Khan, and to take it on whatever terms it might have wished to impose. It might have waited until the whole of the Rajah's territories were plundered and ravaged, His Highness driven from his capital and his power almost extinguished, to take the merit to itself of having restored His Highness to his Government, and to have clogged its assistance in such a case with conditions and engagements, inconsistent with His Highness's feelings or the independence of his power. Even with less obloquy it might have asked pecuniary compensation for the interposition of its power which it might have represented as solely arising from motives of friendship to the Rajah, cloaking under

such professions the interest which it has in common with all the established powers of the Deccan, in the preservation of the state of Nagpur.

8. Rejecting however the very idea of such motives, and assuming only to himself the glory of a liberal, open, and generous policy, the Governor-General unsolicited, and without expectation of any benefit beyond the legitimate security of the British Goverment and its allies and the increased sense of the value of his friendship, and the increased respect for British faith and moderation which such a proceeding cannot fail to impress on the Rajah's mind, and on the sentiments of every power in India has directed me to make the following communications.

9. If Meer Khan persists in crossing the Nerbudda the interests of the Rajah, and those of the British Government and its allies are one and the same, and measures are in progress for affording to His Highness the most efficient aid to support his power, and to repress and chastise the irregular ambition of Meer Khan.

10. Shridhar Pandit asked whether he had rightly understood me that the offer of aid was unconditional. I said he had, and that the Governor-General considered the cause of the Rajah as that of the British Government and its allies. I told him that as I considered him as a friend to both Governments, and as I wished to make the communication of the Governor-General's resolutions in favour of the Rajah in the terms I calculated to make the most favourable impression on His Highness's mind I had desired a previous conference with him, and requested his advice. The minister said that nothing could be better calculated than my discourse to him, to be addressed to the Rajah, and as the Rajah would be impatient to know the subject of the conference, he would immediately prepare him by stating the general result of my communication, which His Highness would then hear from my own mouth.

12. The minister immediately went to the Rajah, who shortly afterwards entered the tent with Shridhar Pandit. His Highness with great cheerfulness and apparent satisfaction personally desired me to repeat to him what I had said to Shreedhar Pandit.

13. I accordingly repeated to His Highness in as nearly the same terms as possible, the discourse which I had held to Shridhar Pandit. The Rajah listened to me with very great attention and seeming pleasure and interrupted me several times to make me repeat those parts of it, which mentioned the disinterested views of the British Government. The greatest impression appeared to be made on his mind by those parts of my discourse: and when I had concluded His Highness addressed himself personally to me.

14. His Highness said that as the success of Meer Khan in Garrah Mandla had been rather owing to his treachery and finesse in negotiation than to his military power, and His Highness had trusted that he might be able to chastise that Chief with his own forces which were assembled on the Nerbudda, and at Chapara, he had not hitherto been willing to ask the aid of the British Government, because he thought he could not have expected it without some conditions advantageous to the British Government, either in territorial or other respects, and perhaps burthensome to his own but as the British Government of its own accord, and merely actuated by sentiments of the purest friendship and good-will towards him, had made the offer of its unconditional, support, His Highness could not sufficiently express his sense of the liberality and friendliness of the proceeding. The sincerity of his heart, he repeated several times, could only be appreciated by the sympathy of a friendly heart.

15. His Highness then was pleased to pay me some compliments and to hint at obligations to me in this proceeding, which I considered a stronger proof of his joy at the unexpected generosity of Government in proposition as he seemed in his reply on the subject of my discourse, to aim at being guarded in his expression of his gratitude and satisfaction.

16. I said that the interests of the British Government and its allies to prevent the dismemberment of a state so ancient and respectable as that of the Rajah, and united as he was with them in the bonds of friendship and good understanding were the principal and acknowledged motives which had actuated the Governor-General. That I had frequently assured His Highness of the cordial interest which your (His ?) Lordship took in his welfare and prosperity and the measures which were in train for his support and assistance were the fruits in action of that interest which your (His ?) Lordship had not before an opportunity of manifesting otherwise than by professions.

17. I then told His Highness that the Governor-General was addressing (my) letter to him on the subject, but had been unwilling to delay for a moment the communication of his resolution in his favour. His Highness said that he considered my personal communication as the direct expression of the Governor-General's sentiments. I was proceeding to mention more particularly the letter to Meer Khan and the military measures on foot but His Highness seemed desirous to close the conference and after repeating the professions of his friendship, and satisfaction at my communication, he said he would . . . . particulars at another time, and requested me to attend him again, on the following morning about the same hour, when he should have made up his mind from consultation with his ministers, as to what he would wish to say on the subject.

18. The Rajah also mentioned in the course of the conference that it had always been his wish to punish Meer Khan's aggression, and not to yield anything to him, but to gain time he had negotiated. He had now dismissed his Vakeel, being prepared to oppose Meer Khan's further progress.

19. I took my leave on receiving the usual compliment of Betel.

20. I conclude that the respect which the Rajah always manifests for his mother who is at Nagpur, made him desirous to receive her sentiments before he opened himself more fully on the subject of my communication. I have only further generally to remark on this conference, that the Rajah showed every mark of satisfaction, and gratitude for the liberal proceedings of the British Government which I could have expected from a native prince, educated and accustomed to disguise the most prominent emotions of the mind and passions.

21. Agreeably to the Rajah's desire, I proceeded to his tent again this morning about the same hour. After the customary forms of civility, I was requested to retire with Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao to a separate tent.

22. The minister commenced the conversation by saying that the Rajah felt the sincerest satisfaction and pleasure at the conference of yesterday, and the more he reflected on my communication, the greater was the impression made upon his mind by the liberal and generous friendship of the Governor-General. I replied to these professions and to some complimentary speeches which he said the Rajah had made with regard to myself by calling to Shridhar Pandit's recollection the Governor-General's former expressions of your desire to have an opportunity of giving the Rajah some substantial proofs of your regard, and I said that the present proceeding would tend to confirm in the Rajah's mind the sentiment that the British Government never made professions which it did not desire in practice. Shridhar Pandit said that the Rajah was indeed, and always had been impressed with that sentiment.

23. Shridhar proceeded to mention a question which he said the Rajah had desired him to propose to me. The proceedings of Meer Khan in this quarter were in the name of Jeswant Rao Holkar, and on account of demands which his Government pretended to have on the Rajah. Meer Khan was assisted by Holkar's troops, and any opposition to Meer Khan might be expected to involve a contest with Holkar. The Rajah wished to know what would be done in that case. I replied that I could not give a better answer to that question than by giving the minister for perusal a copy of the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan, which would manifest the opinion of Government with regard to the share which Holkar's Government had or might have in

the present proceedings, but as I had not yet received any detailed instructions, I should confine myself to the communication of that letter.

24. Having perused that letter, and expressed himself satisfied on the subject, the minister rose from his seat, and the Rajah who was in a neighbouring tent immediately joined us.

25. The minister described to the Rajah the general heads of what had passed, and read and explained to His Highness the letter to Meer Khan, to which he told His Highness I had referred him for an answer to the question which he had been instructed to propose. The Rajah seemed much pleased and entirely satisfied with its contents, and I agreed with His Highness and his minister in the inference, which he drew that as the proceedings and projects of Meer Khan were considered by the Governor-General as tending directly to sow the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of the British Government and its allies, and to disturb the foundations of existing harmony and concord, those proceedings and projects referred to Holkar and acknowledged by him would still be opposed by the British Government.

26. On that part of the letter which says that the British Government and its allies would be disposed to become the medium of an amicable adjustment, between the Rajah and Holkar, His Highness only remarked that the agression of Meer Khan had already caused him damage to the amount of many lacks of rupees. On the whole contents His Highness expressed himself very well satisfied and requested to have a copy of the letter to which I agreed.

27. His Highness then addressed himself personally to me; and expressed the gratitude which he felt for the very friendly proceeding of Government, which he said rendered the power of the two states one and the same, and united as it were, their armies, into one body. If at any time we should be desirous of a similar line of conduct on his part, his forces he said were ours. I think this was his expression, but it was obscure and guarded.

28. I then addressed myself to the minister and mentioned the general arrangement, which was on foot for bringing a force to the Rajah's assistance. As some time, probably six weeks at least, must elapse before the force under the personal command of Colonel Close could be sufficiently advanced, I said I wished to be informed of His Highness's immediate plans against Meer Khan, and of his opinion regarding the measures which that Chief was likely at this moment to pursue, and I asked whether Meer Khan was expected soon to cross the Nerbudda. To this the Rajah replied personally that the forces of Sadik Ali Khan at Sirnagar and Amrut Rao Bukshi at Chapara amounted together to between twenty and thirty thousand men, and that every attempt

would be made to oppose Meer Khan by those Chiefs in conjunction. With regard to Meer Khan he said his views were undoubtedly to do him as much mischief as possible and that at the very moment, when he appeared most inclined to amicable measures he was hatching the most treacherous designs. No kind of confidence could be placed in him for any good purpose although he was always ready for evil ones. The Rajah added that he hoped the British troops would march with every expedition to the Wardha, from whence if near Amraoti they might arrive at Nagpur in three or four days, and that according to the aspect of affairs when they might reach the Wardha. he would signify his wishes for their advance or otherwise to Nagpur.

29. I remarked that Colonel Close would certainly advance the troops destined for His Highness's relief with the greatest practicable expedition, and that his operations whatever they might be would be directed to produce the greatest possible benefit to the common cause and the greatest satisfaction to the Rajah. At present, I said, His Highness would probably think that the longer Meer Khan could be prevented from crossing the Nerbudda, the better and I hinted as delicately as I could that it was possible the Governor-General's letter would have the effect of making Meer Khan less bold in prosecuting his former projects ; he said he was sensible however that the distance of the British troops might lead him on the other hand, to attempt to carry everything instantaneously, but still he hoped his armies might make head against him until the arrival of Colonel Close.

30. I said that even should Meer Khan not have crossed the Nerbudda before Colonel Close's arrival on the Wardha, it might be advisable on military grounds for a British force to be in advance from Nagpur. The Rajah allowed that it might and said that he would be guided by any advice which might appear suitable at the time; and that he considered his own armies as ours, and the British troops as his own. Although he added there might have been some doubt of his success unaided against Meer Khan, there could now be none of complete triumph over any enemies who might oppose.

31. I then alluded to what I had heard of His Highness's negotiations with the Pindaries. The Rajah immediately replied that his negotiations with them had been directed only to detach them from Meer Khan, and to secure his own territories from the additional injury of their depredations at such a time; but that his engagements with them were merely temporary. His Highness said that he had now a person in their Camp to direct the operations which they had agreed to undertake against Meer Khan. I asked whether any of them had crossed the Nerbudda. The Rajah said they had not, nor was it his intention that they should; but they were to fall on the rear of Meer Khan to the northward of that river. They were not, he added, to be depended upon, and although it was better to have them for him than against him, he

was aware of the danger of allowing them to pass the Nerbudda, as they would not fail to do more injury to his country than they would do good to his cause.

32. I remarked that the Rajah had certainly acted very prudently in confining any operations in which they were to be concerned to their own side of the river.

33. His Highness now asked whether I had any late accounts from Meer Khan's Camp, or from that of Holkar. Before I could reply to his question he informed me that a small party of Pindaries had lately crossed the river and plundered a few villages but that they had immediately returned. His Highness alluded to the alleged quarrel between Meer Khan's brother-in-law Gafur Khan and Holkar's ministers, in consequence of which the former had left the Camp. This quarrel His Highness said was only pretended, for in fact all the affairs of Holkar's Government were notoriously guided and controlled by him, and the ministers of Holkar would never have dared to expel his brother-in-law, excepting as a finesse. As the Rajah spoke this personally I did not think it necessary to ask an explanation of the meaning and object to which His Highness attributed the finesse.

34. Nothing further of importance passed.

35. I have this day dispatched the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan with merely a few lines from myself, by a pair of my own Hircarrahs and a pair of the Rajah's to facilitate their conveyance across the Nerbudda. I thought it my duty instantly to apprize the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand of the intentions of Government with regard to Meer Khan, in order to prevent any possible danger to the advanced detachment under Captain Lambat Kuckeroutee, near the Powie Ghat, from any sudden attack which Meer Khan be induced to make upon it, if still in that position. With the view of gaining a little time for my Hircarrahs, I therefore detained the letter until this day, but on the other hand considering that the object is to deter Meer Khan, if possible, from crossing the Nerbudda I did not think it right to delay longer in dispatching it.

36. Meer Khan, by my last accounts, was still encamped in person near Jubbulpore, but Shahamat Khan and others of his Chiefs with about 4,000 horse and 4 guns were at Telwarry on the northern bank of the river, which is now fordable in several places for horse, though I believe not yet sufficiently so far guns to cross. Some arrangement appears to have been made with the Nabob of Bhopal to keep him quiet for the present. In the course of tomorrow I shall probably receive fresh intelligence which I shall lose no time in communicating to Colonel Close.

37. I have communicated the contents of this dispatch in a direct address to Colonel Close; to whose instructions I shall pay the most implicit reference.

38. The Rajah returned to Nagpur to celebrate the Deshara, but only remained there two days, and I joined him at this place on the 25th instant.

Letter No. 12.—Jenkins reports the death of Rajah's mother and the consequences arising out of it.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.
TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Camp at Ramtek, the 23rd December 1809.

I have the pleasure to enclose copies of Akhbars which arrived last night from the Nerbudda. I have heard nothing further of the Pindaries who were said to be at Tauckul Ghat and I am in hopes it was only a false alarm.

The death of the Rajah's mother you will have learnt by my dispatch of yesterday. She is said to have died very rich, and the first disagreement between the brothers it is expected will break out about the division of the treasure. The Rajah last night issued very strict orders to his Chiefs in Camp to be upon their guard, against any treacherous machinations which the Bai's death might cause to be attempted, and some troops have been sent off for the protection and to preserve the peace of the city. Everything, however, appears at present quiet but there must be many who having formerly owed their safety from the Rajah's exactions, to the Bai's influence, now tremble for their persons and property.

I am to pay my first visit of condolence to the Rajah tomorrow.

Letter No. 13.—The letter reports that the Rajah of Sirgooja—Balbhadur Shahi—threatens to occupy the pargana of Barwah in the district of Ramgarh.

FROM—C. LUSHINGTON, ACTING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.
TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 30th January 1810.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed extract from the proceedings of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council in the Judicial Department under date the 19th instant on the subject of the renewed threats of the Rajah of Sirgoojah to occupy by force the pergunnah of Burwah in the district of Ramgarh. You will be pleased to explain to the ministers of the Rajah of Berar the impropriety of the conduct of the Rajah of Sirgoojah on this occasion and to request that the most positive orders may be issued to him to refrain from the prosecution of his unfounded claims to the possession of a territory which unquestionably forms a component part of the British Dominion. His Excellency in Council can hardly entertain the supposition that the Rajah of Sirgoojah will endeavour to put his threat into execution of taking possession by force of the pergunnah of Burwah, but it may be proper for you to signify to the Court of Nagpur that any attempt on his part to disturb the tranquillity of Burwah, will be repelled by the troops of the British Government.

2. You will find amongst the records in your possession an unequivocal admission on the part of the Rajah of Berar of the right of the British Government to the pergunnah of Burwah made on the occasion of Lieutenant Colonel Jones's expedition on Sirgoojah in the year 1802.

Extract from the proceedings of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council in the Judicial Department under date the 19th January 1810.

To—GEORGE DOWDESWELL ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council, that I have lately received a representation from the Rajah of Nagpur, enclosing copy of a letter transmitted to him by Rajah Balbhadur Sahy of Sirgoojah, from which it appears that the latter has again revived his pretensions to the Pergunnah of Burwah and threatened to take possession of it.

2. On the receipt of this intelligence, I immediately dispatched a Parwannah to the Rajah of Sirgoojah, requiring him under pain of the severe displeasure of Government to desist from prosecuting his unjust claims on the Pergunnah in question. I likewise thought proper to give intimation of the circumstance to Captain Roughsedge and beg leave to enclose a copy of that officer's reply to my address.

3. The accompanying copy of Captain Roughsedge's reply places the circumstances of the case in so clear a light that I have nothing to state in addition thereto, and I trust that the measures adopted by that gentleman as alluded to in his addresses to Mr. Jenkins and to Mr. Lushington under date the 4th instant, and likewise the receipt of my Parwana will induce the Rajah of Sirgoojah to desist from any attempt to gain possession of the Pergunnah of Burwah by violent means.

4. As Captain Roughsedge has already transmitted to Mr. Lushington, copy of the letter addressed by the Rajah of Nagpur . . . . . . deemed it unnecessary to accompany this letter with a translation thereof.

Zillah Ramgarh: Rd. WALPOLE,
13th January 1810. Acting Magistrate.

To—R. WALPOLE, ESQUIRE, ACTING MAGISTRATE, ZILLAH RAMGURH.

SIR,

I was in the act of addressing you on the subject of the removal of the Rajah of Sirgoojah's claim to the Pergunnah of Burwah when I was honoured with the receipt of your dispatch of the 8th instant.

2. The circumstances had been communicated to me by Rajah Govindnath Sahy and I have the pleasure to enclose copies of my letters to the Resident at the Court of Berar and Mr. Secretary Lushington, which in addition to the judicious step adopted by you of addressing a Perwannah, to Rajah Balbhadur Sahy will I doubt not have the effect of putting an immediate stop to the prosecution of that . . . . claim to the Pergunnah of Burwah.

3. The assertions of Rajah Govindnath Sahy as to the utter inefficiency of the police in Burwah are very true; the authority of Government has never been established in that district, and on consulting the Records of your Court I believe it will be found, that complaints more or less serious have been exhibited against all its principal inhabitants.

4. I am credibly informed that Jaimangal Sahy, Pradhan of . . . . and Ferenghee Barraick of Beergong in particular within the last month sent Vakeels to Sirgoojah Nagar for the purpose. If in..........................Rajah Balbhadur Sahy to assert his pretensions to Burwah from which step has in all probability resulted the letter received by Rajah Govindnath Sahy. The Pergunnah of Burwah is so strong by nature and affords such facilities from its vicinity to Sirgoojah for the escape of criminals that I see no chance of the due establishment of the authority of Government there unless a severe example is made of two or three of the most refractory Zamindars which cannot be accomplished without the co-operation of the Rajah of Sirgoojah, or an eventual pursuit of them into his country.

Hazaribagh: E. ROUGHSEDGE,
January 9th, 1810. Captain, Commanding Ramgarh Battalion.

म. म. द. वा. पोतदार;
ग्रंथ संग्रह

Letter No. 14.—This is an important letter. Edmonstone explains that since the scheme of establishing a subsidiary force on the Nerbudda within Bhonsla's territories has not been accepted by Bhonsla, an accommodation may be effected with the Nawab of Bhopal.

From—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Fort St. George, the 22nd February 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the dates noted in the margin, and to convey to you such observations in addition to those contained in my letter of the 12th instant as the progress of events and your recent communications appear to require.

2. The circumstances of a nature to affect our proceedings which have come to the knowledge of the Governor-General since the dispatch of his instructions of the 12th instant are, the Nabob of Bhopal's transmission to you of overtures of submission and the decided refusal of the Rajah of Nagpur to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions on any terms.

3. His Lordship's instructions of the 12th instant left you at liberty under certain reservations either to accede to an accommodation with the Nabob of Bhopal involving a pacification between him and the Rajah of Nagpur or to dispossess him of his territory. Those instructions were issued under an expectation that the Rajah of Nagpur might possibly be induced to accede to a subsidiary arrangement. This being no longer a question your measures must be regulated without reference to that contingency. The field of optional arrangements is now much narrow since the security of such as might be. . . . . . our guarantee, depended upon the permanent establishment of a British force to the northward of the Nerbudda. Without that our guarantee would eventually be in the highest degree burdonsome and inconvenient and cannot be admitted. The circumstance appears to preclude the expediency of our mediation between the Nabob of Bhopal, because such a mediation almost necessarily involves a guarantee.

4. The Governor-General is of opinion that notwithstanding the latitude of action allowed to you by his instructions of the 12th instant, you will not, under the Nabob of Bhopal's direct overtures of submission, have judged it proper to proceed to effect the conquest of Bhopal without specific directions issued after his Lordship's receipt of your dispatches of the 31st ultimo in which you referred to his consideration the Nabob's letter to your address, his Lordship rather concludes it to be probable that you will set on foot a negotiation with the Nabob of Bhopal according to the suggestions contained in my letter of the 12th instant the duration of which, as it would involve a communication with the Rajah

of Nagpur, will probably admit of your receiving the present dispatch in time to enable you to modify or abandon your ulterior proceedings.

5. Under these suppositions I have now the honour to communicate to you His Lordship's sentiments with regard to the arrangements which with a view to the early termination of the campaign and the cantonment of the troops, it may be practicable and expedient to pursue.

6. Under the change of circumstances to which I have adverted, the Governor-General excludes from contemplation, the conquest of Bhopal and the adjustment of any terms of accommodation between the Rajah and the Nabob of Bhopal, by the means of our mediation and guarantee. It only remains to decide what terms of accommodation between the Nabob of Bhopal and the British Government, shall be exacted and to what extent the Military operations shall be carried.

7. Adverting to the active support and assistance afforded by the Nabob of Bhopal to Amir Khan after the latter had placed himself in a condition of hostility towards the British Government, His Lordship is decidedly of opinion that he should be subjected to some retributary demands, one of which should obviously be the immediate and unconditional surrender of whatever places belonging to the Rajah of Nagpur, he may have occupied in concert with Amir Khan. It has occurred to His Lordship that the payment of a sum of money as a compensation in part of the expenses of the campaign might justly be rendered the subject of a second article of demand. This point however is left entirely to your discretion, to be regulated by the resources of the Nabob and by local circumstances of all which you must be the most competent judge. In addition to these demands, such obligations connected with the absolute separation of the Nabob's interests from those of Amir Khan's, and the exclusion of the Pindaries from Bhopal, as you may deem advantageous and advisable might be exacted from the Nabob, together with any practicable security for the adherence to his engagements. His compliance with these demands must of course be declared to be the condition of our forbearance from the prosecution of hostilities against him.

8. With regard to the extent to which Military operations should be carried, I am directed to state the following observations.

9. His Lordship concludes that you will have carried into effect your intention of acting against Seronge and against the accessible holds of the Pindaries in Bhopal. His Lordship concurs with you in the expediency of delivering over Seronge to any person duly appointed on the part of Holkar's Government to receive charge of it. His Lordship however deems it advisable to require from that Government as the condition of its delivery an engagement that Seronge should not at any future time be allowed to revert to the possession of Amir Khan, although the Governor-

General is aware that this stipulation may be rendered abortive by a revolution which should place the management of Holkar's affairs once more under the control of Amir Khan.

10. The prosecution of hostilities against the Pindaries, to the extent which you have described appears to His Lordship to be highly expedient, but it is not the intention of the Governor-General that you should consider the pursuit of that predatory. . . . . substantive object of your operations to a degree to protract the period of the return of the troops into Cantonments.

11. When the purposes herein described shall have been accomplished, the Governor-General expects that no further. . . . . .will exist for detaining the troops in the field and that the Corps which have advanced from Bundelkhand may be remanded to that province and the force under your personal command may return within the limits of the province of Berar. With reference to this event therefore His Lordship requests to be favoured with your opinion regarding the detail of the arrangement, which in consequence of the Rajah of Nagpur's refusal to admit of the establishment of a British force within his dominions, it would be advisable to adopt on Military principles for the permanent security of those territories which we are bound to protect to the southward of the Nerbudda.

12. Instructions will be immediately transmitted to the Acting Resident at Nagpur directing him to abstain from any further effort to obtain the Rajah's consent to the establishment of a British force within his dominions.

Letter No. 15.—Edmonstone indicates the motives of establishing a permanent subsidiary force on the Nerbudda within Bhonsla's territories.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—GRŒME MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Fort St. George, the 13th February 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos. 1 and 2, dated the 3rd and 15th ultimo, the information contained in which is entirely satisfactory to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

2. I am further instructed to apprize you that a negotiation has been instituted for the permanent establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda, within the territories of the Rajah of Nagpur. The object of this proposed arrangement is to form a line of defence by connecting posts throughout the frontier of the Deccan to Bundelkhand. If this arrangement should take effect,

a part of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force will probably be stationed at Amraoti on the eastern confines of the province of Berar and the force on the Nerbudda may probably be stationed in the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore which will then form a point of connection between Bundelkhand and Berar, and prove an effectual barrier against the invasions to the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions or those of the Nizam. This arrangement does not necessarily involve the conclusion of the engagements with the Rajah of Nagpur, similar to those subsisting with the Peshwa and Nizam, but it will. . . . . . . impose upon the British Government . . . . obligation to protect his territories from exterior attack.

3. Considerable doubt is entertained of the Rajah of Nagpur's consent to the establishment of a British force within his dominions on any terms although it is not altogether. . . . . that the menaces of Amir Khan who has intimated his resolution to . . . . his designs against the state of Nagpur at a future opportunity, may induce the Rajah to acquiesce in a measure which will permanently remove the danger.

4. The object of this communication is to desire that you will report your opinion founded on your knowledge of the character and disposition of Sindhia, and of the relation in which he considers himself to stand with respect to the Rajah of Nagpur, what effects the proposed arrangement is likely to produce on his mind and whether it is calculated to interfere with any claims which Sindhia may consider himself to have on the Rajah or with any political views which he may entertain with respect to the state of Nagpur.

Letter No. 16.—**The enclosures 1 and 2 to this letter are important, inasmuch as they contain instructions of the Governor-General to Colonel Close to withdraw the British troops, hand over Sironj to the Holkar's Government, and have the Bhonsla to mediate with the Nawab of Bhopal. Enclosure 2 is omitted because it is extremely mutilated.**

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, the 8th March 1810.

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of instructions issued under His Lordship's authority to Colonel Close on the 2nd instant, together with copies of the letter to the address of the Resident at the Court of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and of its enclosure.

To—COLONEL CLOSE.

SIR,

Having drawn up in the form of a memorandum which was intended to form the bases of regular instructions, what I have collected of the Governor-General's views and sentiments regarding the intricacies of our present position relatively to the Rajah of Nagpur, Amir Khan and the Nabob of Bhopal, His Lordship has directed me with a view to put you in possession of his detailed reflections on the various questions which he has considered, to transmit to you a copy of that memorandum. You will find that the suggestions contained in it which are deduced from the communications which I have had the honour to hold with His Lordship have been adopted and converted into official instructions with certain modifications.

His Lordship conceives that to mediate an adjustment of differences between the Rajah, and the Nabob even if it were practicable without our guarantee would be attended with no advantage, and that to afford our guarantee without maintaining a force to the northward of the Nerbudda is inadmissible. His Lordship therefore deems it sufficient to exact from the Nabob of Bhopal what may operate as a punishment to him and advantageous for us, leaving the Rajah to act as he thinks proper with regard to Bhopal.

His Lordship is anxious not to be drawn into an extensive field of operation..........................the Pindaries. He is desirous of considering any operations against them as a collateral rather than a direct object of our proceedings and to close the campaign with the accomplishment of those purposes which as described in his present instructions appear to His Lordship to be of sufficient importance to support the credit of our exertions in the cause of the Rajah of Nagpur, not only the retreat of Amir Khan, the occupation of Seronge and its delivery to Holkar, the submission of the Nabob of Bhopal on the terms prescribed, and the expulsion of the Pindaries from their principal hold in that country.

The Rajah of Nagpur's consent to the permanent establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda would have admitted as other and more beneficial arrangement. That important object being unattainable, his Lordship is anxious to withdraw our troops from the field at the earliest practicable moment consistent with our credit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Secretary to Govt.

Fort St. George:

22nd February 1810.

Letter No. 17.—This letter and its enclosure which is an address to the Bhonsla, explain the motives of the British Government in undertaking the military operations against Amir Khan and indicate its disappointment at the Bhonsla's failure to agree to the arrangement suggested by the Governor-General for the future safety of his own territories.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, the 26th March 1810.

By direction of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General I have now the honour to transmit, His Lordship's replies to the letters from His Highness the Rajah, and his Ministers enclosed in your dispatch of the 24th ultimo together with copies for your information.

2. The Rajah's studious omission of all acknowledgement for the essential aid which he derived from the protection of the British power under circumstances which menaced the subversion of his Government, and his corresponding exaggeration of the prowess and effect of his arms in compelling the retreat of Amir Khan, are highly offensive and disgusting with reference not only to his want of candour and misrepresentation of facts, but also to the motives of jealousy and suspicion which in addition to the instigations of an overweening pride, have evidently dictated the tenor of his address to the Governor-General.

3. His Lordship deeming it by no means advisable that the British Government should be supposed to acquiesce in so gross a mis-statement of facts, and in so offensive a disavowal of the obligations which the Rajah owes to the British Government for its gratuitous and liberal exertions in his favour, in the utmost exigency of his affairs has thought proper in his reply to the Rajah's letter to refute his assumption, and to claim the credit which is due to the important and reasonable relief afforded to him by the interposition of our protecting power.

4. You will be pleased to accompany the delivery of the letters with such an additional detail of circumstances as may appear to you to be necessary, not so much to demonstrate a fact of the truth of which the Rajah must be perfectly conscious, as to expose the fallacy of his assumptions, and to vindicate the credit of our Arms, and the merits of our liberality by depriving His Highness of every pretext for withholding the acknowledgments so justly due for the benefits which he has derived from our assistance; and for the motives which induced the British Government to afford it, without any demand of compensation for the heavy charge. and inconvenience attending it.

5. You will be careful at the same time to abstain from the language of irritation and to convey your representation of facts to His Highness in terms of dignity, mildness, and friendship and especially to preclude any supposition on the part of the Rajah that either the Rajah's uncandid and ungenerous conduct on this occasion or his refusal to concur in the plan proposed for the permanent defence of his dominion has produced in the mind of the Governor-General any sentiment of ill will, or diminished his Lordship's solicitude to maintain as heretofore, the relations of cordiality and confidence with the state of Nagpur.

6. I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your dispatches of the date noted in the margin.

To—RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA.

Written 26th March 1810.

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter (Recapitulates that received 8th March).

In my letter to your Highness of the 31st December, I had the satisfaction to congratulate you on the success which forms the subject of your Highness's present letter. I have only again to assure you that the success of your Highness's Army will always afford me the greatest pleasure.

Your Highness however having ascribed exclusively to that success, the retreat of Amir Khan from your territories, and appearing entirely to overlook the essential aid afforded to you by the British troops, which at a moment of extreme peril, advanced for the protection of your country and compelled the enemy to abandon his designs, without any compensation being demanded by the British Government for the heavy charge and inconvenience attending this exertion, justice requires that I should advert to the circumstances of this event.

It will be in the recollection of your Highness that after the action to which your letter alludes, and which took place on the 7th of December or 27th of Shuwal, Amir Khan, instead of retreating from your Highness's territories again crossed the Nerbudda and remained to the southward of that river, within a short distance of your Army, which occupied a position inaccessible to the attack of Cavalry, until the 7th of January or 30th of Zekodya, when he commenced his retreat without any movement on the part of your Highness's troops which continued merely on the defensive surrounded by the Pindaries, who succeeded in cutting off their supplies and exposed them to great distress. In this situation nothing could have opposed the further advance of Amir Khan into your Highness's territory. But at that time the detachment under the command of Colonel Close was at Pandhurna and the British troops had commenced their march from

Bundelkhand. By advancing, Amir Khan would have incurred the danger of being attacked in point by the detachment under Colonel Close and his retreat would have been cut off by the Army of Bundelkhand. He was equally exposed to danger from the combined movements of the two British Detachment by continuing in his position south of the Nerbudda. He had therefore no alternative but to retreat before either of those Detachments could intercept his route. He accordingly began to retire two days after Colonel Close commenced his march from Pandhurna and five days before the advance of the troops of Bundelkhand from Chatterpore.

These circumstances alone are sufficient to show that the retreat of Amir Khan is to be ascribed exclusively to the movements of the British troops. But this motive of his retreat is acknowledged by Amir Khan himself in his letter to your Highness's Minister Shridhar Pandit dated the 1st January or 1st of Zelhedj in which after describing his conception of the imprudence of calling in British troops to your Highness's aid he declares his inability to meet them in the field and his consequent resolution to retire and in the same letter he declares that although this compelled at present to retreat, he will never abstain from hostilities against your Highness until the money which Sadik Ali Khan consented to pay to Amir Khan, shall have been discharged. Amir Khan has also made the same acknowledgment in his letters to Colonel Close and to me written about the same period of time. It is, therefore, most evident that your Highness's relief from the danger which menaced your dominion is to be attributed entirely to the advance of the British troops.

I was anxious to provide a permanent security against the return of a similar danger, by the arrangement which was lately proposed to your Highness. But that arrangement not having met with your Highness's concurrence and the object of the exertions of the British Government in your Highness's favour having happily been accomplished by the retreat of Amir Khan beyond Seronge, the British troops will now be withdrawn.

Although I must regret that the successful and gratuitous exertions of the British Government have not made a just impression on your Highness's mind yet I reflect with high satisfaction on the success of those exertions and on the opportunity which has thus been afforded me of manifesting my sincere solicitude for your Highness's prosperity.

For further particulars I refer you to the verbal communications of Mr. Jenkins.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government

Letter No. 18.—Colonel Close suggests the military arrangements that have to be made if the application from the Bhonsla for a British force, to be stationed in his territories north of the Nerbudda, were granted.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp near Hoshangabad, 26th March 1810.

I have the honour to forward open duplicate of my dispatch of yesterday's date to Mr. Secretary, Edmonstone, which I request you will send on after perusal.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the ideas, on the presumption that the application from His Highness the Rajah of Nagpur, for a British force will be acquiesced in and that the force is to be of the strength and description stated in the overtures of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, formerly communicated to the Rajah, viz., a Regiment of Native Cavalry, a company of Foot Artillery, 4 Battalions of Native Infantry, a suitable proportion of ordnance and a detail of Pioneers.

On this subject I take it for granted that for the present at least the force destined for Jubbulpore will be composed of Coast Troops, to be furnished, from the Corps remaining there under the immediate command and further adopt it as a satisfactory principle, that it must be always more convenient to support a subsidiary force by the troops of another subsidiary force, than by those taken from stations in the Company's territories.

As the measure accommodating the Rajah of Nagpur, with a British force to be stationed as already noticed, will have an influence then in the disposal of the Subsidiary forces of Hyderabad and Poona, it will be expedient to consider the force at Jubbulpore, as a link of a chain of cantonments, streching from the Nerbudda to Poona, which connects conveniently with the Presidency of Bombay, the several cantonments being so situated as to support each other when necessary.. practicable convenience.

As the force proposed for Jubbulpore is evidently small, I may conclude that..............................not intended, and cannot be advised to consider any proportion of that force as make a part of the Hyderabad force, so as to lessen the number of Native Infantry Corps of the latter to be stationed at its Headquarters.

According to these promises, the 'Jubbulpore force would be chiefly composed of corps, lately destined to form a part of the Hyderabad force, and most of the Corps destined by the last distribution of the Army for stations to the westward and southward from a part of the latter.

From the change of political circumstances, to be necessarily occasioned, by the stationing of a British force on the Nerbudda, it will appear expedient, that the Hyderabad force should be augmented by a Regiment of Dragoons, and that the Native Battalion lately added to the Poona force should be considered as permanently included on its strength. Thus the force at Jubbulpore would consist of the 4th Regiment Cavalry, 2nd Battalion, 7th Bn., 9th Bn., 10 and 1st Bns., 20 Regt. N. I. The detail of the Battalion Pioneers now in the Deccan above the establishment of the Hyderabad Subsidiary force, the Company for Jubbulpore must be taken from this detachment to be replaced for the present by the one taken from the Company's of the Royal's at Hyderabad and His Majesty's 34th Regiment in... the headquarters of the Hyderabad force, the Horse Artillery, the 22nd Dragoons, 7th and 8th Regiments Native Cavalry.............. remaining company of foot artillery, H. M. 34th Regiment, the 2nd Battalion 5th, 1st Bn. 12th, 1st Battalion 16th, 2nd battalion, 17th Regiment Native Infantry and the Pioneers now attached to the force.

At the headquarters of the Pioneer Subsidiary force, a Regiment of Native Cavalry a proportion of Foot Artillery, 4 Battalions of Native Infantry, and a company of Pioneers. At Poona of 3 Battalions of Native Infantry furnishing the necessary details for Serror, Ahmednagar, etc.

It is proposed that the Headquarters of the Hyderabad force should be at a position on the Wardha to the Eastward of Ellichpore and the Headquarters of the Poona force at Jalna.

By this disposition there would be a chain of cantonments from Bombay to the Nerbudda, a line which is deemed to be preferable, to any which could be established between Fort St. George, or any principal station in the Karnatic and the Nerbudda by the route of.........................with which however....................... Headquarters of both forces would not necessarily.................... By advancing............................of the Hyderabad force from Amraoti to the point before mentioned.......................distance between Jubbulpore and Jalna will be more equally divided, and should it be requisite to reinforce the troops at Jubbulpore by the whole of the force on the Wardha, Berar in its absence would be protected by the troops at Jalna, which if necessary might be reinforced by the 5 companies of the Royals at Hyderabad. When the troops on the Wardha should join those at Jubbulpore, the combined force at the latter station would consist of the Horse Artillery, one Regiment of Dragoons, 3 Regts. of Native Cavalry, the greater part of 2 companies of Artillery, reinforced by men from the European Infantry trained to the Gun exercise, 1 Regiment European Infantry, 8 Battalions of Native Infantry and nearly 3 Companies of Pioneers, a body sufficiently powerful to act offensively for any purpose, even without being reinforced from Bundelkhand. According to this system of arrangement the 1st and 2nd Regiment of Native Cavalry could............................. be desirable to complete the proposed arrangement for Jubbulpore without delay. I am induced to use the freedom of mentioning these officers of the troops here whom I consider as qualified to fill the command of the staff situations belonging to the Corps in question.

For the command of the Jubbulpore Subsidiary force, I would suggest Col. Irton for the office of Assistant Adjutant-General, Captain Taylor of the 10th N. I. now Major of Brigade to Lt.-Col. Irton. For the situation of the Assistant Quarter Master General Lt. John Law of the Military Survey institution. For that of Persian interpretor, Lt. Morgan of the 1st Bn. 2nd Regiment. To be Paymaster Commissary and Agent for Hired Cattle Major P. Nansagnew. To be commissary of stores, Captain Weldon of Artillery. To be Superintendent Surgeon, Mr. Gilmsars who now fills that situation in this Army. To be Engineer, Captain Johnson of H. M. 34th Regiment who has been educated in that line. To be..

The departments for the Jubbulpore force to be formed from those of the Army, by a transfer of the portions now surplus to the fixed establishment of the Hyderabad force.

The extent of the different departments to be kept up with the Jubbulpore force I shall proceed to fix if honoured with authority for the purpose.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Hoshangabad:
25th March 1810.

B. CLOSE,
Colonel

Letter No. 19.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla had agreed to the stationing of a British force on the Nerbudda.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.
TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Nagpur, the 27th March 1810.

I am favoured with your private letters of 21st and 22nd of March, and today learn by your official dispatch of the 23rd that you have determined to await the result of a reference to the Governor-General on the subject of the Rajah's offers in your present position.

I could by no means have expected that the negotiation would so soon have come to a mature point but the details of my conferences in my last letter to the Governor-General will have shown you that the Rajah was as desirous as I could be to conclude matters. There is no doubt I conceive that the Rajah has now given himself up entirely to us, and I think there are few articles of subsidiary treaty which would now startle him.

It is a fortunate circumstance that you have been enabled to leave things in the same state with regard to Bhopal as they were before the mediation. The Rajah does not seem to think that even should we not directly operate against the Nabob, he would have much difficulty, in taking the country provided no foreign interference were allowed by us, on the part of Meer Khan, and the Pindaries. The idea however of the Rajah having a subsidiary force and of our not directly interfering in the affairs of Bhopal, seem to me to be incompatible.

Letter No. 20.—The statement of accounts is revealing inasmuch as it shows what amount of pensions used to be paid to the Rajah's ministers by the British.

FROM—H. WOOD, ACTING CIVIL AUDITOR, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 28th March 1810.

I request you will be pleased to furnish receipts for the under-mentioned charges made in your accounts for October, November and December 1809:—

	Amount		
	Rs.	a.	p.
In October 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr. Elphinstone's salary ..	2,859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary ..	750	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary ..	680	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon.	260	0	0
Pensions			
Shridhar Pandit from 1st July to 31st December 1809 ..	16,000	0	0
Jeswant Rao and Jaikishan Pandit from 1st January to 31st December 1809.	21,000	0	0
In November 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr. Elphinstone's salary ..	2,859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary ..	750	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary ..	680	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon.	260	0	0
In December 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr. Elphinstone's salary ..	2 859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary ..	750	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary ..	680	0	0
Mr. Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon.	260	0	0

Letter No. 21.—The letter authorizes Colonel Close to resume his withdrawal until definite proposals from the Bhonsla regarding the permanent establishment of a Subsidiary force on the Nerbudda have not been accepted by the Governor-General and he was not apprized of the decision of the Governor-General about it.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Fort St. George, the 2nd April 1810.

SIR,

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General has received from the Acting Resident at Nagpur a copy of his letter to your address dated the 20th ultimo apprizing you of the Rajah's conditional proposition for the permanent establishment of a British force within his territories north of the Nerbudda and in consequence submitting to your consideration the suspension of the march of the whole or a part of your force to the Southward until the Governor-General's determination relative to the acceptance or rejection of that proposition shall be known. His Lordship has also received the Acting Resident's dispatch No. 13 dated the 21st ultimo reporting the details of his conferences with the Court of Nagpur on that subject.

2. The circumstances under which this proposition has now been brought forward; the motives and objects which have suggested it and the necessity of previously adjusting various subordinate but essential points by discussions with the Rajah of which the issue must be doubtful, render an immediate decision impracticable. No adequate motive exists for incurring the expense of keeping a part of the Troops under your command in the field until the question can be determined and to authorize the return of that portion of the troops which should compose the auxiliary force, into the Rajah's territory north of the Nerbudda when the final establishment of any force in that quarter is a subject of negotiation and therefore of doubt, is obviously objectionable in............................points of view.

3. For these reasons it is thought of the Governor-General that in the event of your having suspended the progress of the whole or any part of the force under your command on its return to Berar, in consequence of the communication contained in the Acting Resident's letter of the 20th ultimo, its march should be resumed and the distribution authorized by the Governor-General's instructions of the 30th ultimo should be carried into effect. If the pending negotiation should terminate in the acceptance of the Rajah's proposition the necessary arrangements will be adopted for stationing the requisite force within the Rajah's Northern territories, after the expiration of the rainy season.

4. A copy of my letter of this date to the Acting Resident at Nagpur on the subject of this dispatch is enclosed for your information.

Letter No. 22.—The Bhonsla is informed that since he refused to acquiesce in the original defensive arrangements, the troops had been withdrawan from forward positions to their quarters.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA, NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, the 10th April 1810.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness's letter (Recapitulate that received 4th April).

The proposition which your Highness recites as having been received by you from Mr. Jenkins for the security of your frontier against external attack was conveyed to your Highness as I intimated in my last letter by my direction at the time the British troops were advancing for the expulsion of the enemy. Your Highness however having stated your sentiments on that proposition, in a manner to preclude all hope of your being induced to concur in it, the British troops after having compelled the enemy to retreat from the frontier of your Highness's dominions, which was the object of their taking the field returned towards their usual stations and the Army from Bundelkhand had reached that province, and that under the personal command of Colonel Close had recrossed the Nerbudda when your Highness departing from your original resolution signified your consent to the establishment of a British force to the northward of the Nerbudda, for the protection of your country intimating however that your Highness would not be disposed to bear any part of the expence attending that arrangement.

My original proposition, as your Highness was informed, formed a part of an extensive plan for the general defence of the Deccan and of your Highness's Northern territories, and involved various arrangements relative to the position of troops from Bundelkhand to Khandesh as well as the adjustment of many points of detail with your Highness, connected with that part of the British forces which in pursuit of the general plan, was proposed to be stationed within your Highness's territory. If your Highness had concurred in this beneficial plan when it was first proposed to you there would have been full time to determine these arrangements and to settle all matters of detail with your Highness before the completion of the service in which the British troops were engaged. The force destined to remain in your Highness's territories might have occupied its appointed station, and the rest on the return to Berar and Bundelkhand might have taken up the position which the object of the general plan might render necessary.

Your Highness however being unwilling to admit the establishment of a British force within your dominions, the plan was necessarily abandoned and the time for the formation of all the requisite arrangements and the adjustment of all points of detail connected with the establishment of the British troops within in your territory was lost.

To station them in the country north of the Nerbudda, without the previous formation of these arrangements and the previous adjustment of all that relates to their position, to their subsistence, to the services they would be expected to perform, and various other points would be inconsistent with the maxims of wisdom and prudence, and to detain them in advance with all their field equipments until all these arrangements and questions should be determined, would occasion a great addition to the heavy expence which the British Government has already incurred in providing for the security of your Highness's dominion from the danger under which it was menaced.

Your Highness will therefore be sensible of the necessity of the troops continuing their march to their ordinary stations for the purpose of being placed in cantonments during the ensuing hot and rainy seasons.

In the meantime I shall resume the consideration of the general plan of defensive arrangement, and as soon as may be practicable I shall instruct Mr. Jenkins to communicate to your Highness the various points, the adjustment of which is inseparably connected with the establishment of a British force within your territory for its protection and everything being previously settled and prepared the troops can commence the march and assume their appointed station to the Northward of the Nerbudda after the expiration of the rainy season. (The same to the ministers.)

Letter No. 23.—This letter including the two enclosures are important. Vazeer Mohammed has been directed to send his agents direct to the Bhonsla for the settlement of differences between them and Jenkins is desired to mediate. The enclosure No. 1 containing the memorandum of Vazeer Mohammed throws light on the relations subsisting between the Bhonsla and Vazeer Mohammed.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 7th July 1810.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy and translation of a letter to the address of the

Right Hon'ble the Governor-General from Vazeer Mohammed Khan, the Chief of Bhopal, together with His Lordship's reply to that letter which you will be pleased to forward to him, and a copy and translation for your perusal.

2. You are at liberty to communicate these documents to the Rajah's ministers if you should judge proper.

3. If Vazeer Mohammed Khan should dispatch a Vakeel to Nagpur for the adjustment of the differences with the Rajah, His Lordship-in-Council is of opinion that you might with propriety interfere your mediation for the adjustment of them on the terms before ineffectually proposed by Colonel Close, observing the same caution not to pledge the guarantee of the British Government to any articles of accommodation that may eventually be concluded.

FROM—VAZEER MOHAMMED KHAN, NABOB OF BHOPAL.

Received 1st July 1810.

For a period of thirty years I have manifested my attachment and devotion to the British Government in the persons of its officers, and rendered it every service in my power, in the hope of acquiring increased consequence and distinction, and of securing protection against the oppressions of the rulers of the present age, who not only hold my feeble Government in contempt and desire its ruin, but are actually employing their endeavours to annihilate it.

Hence Colonel Goddard and the Nabob Roshanood Dowlah most readily executed an engagement, promising me the support, and protection of the British Government whenever its authority should be established in this quarter. This fact must be perfectly well known to your Lordship.

From the moment however that I formed a connection with the British Government, I became the object of the envy and jealousy of all the Southern chiefs who in consequence sought to distress and harrass me by every means in their power.

Rajah Seinapath (Raghojee Bhonsla) seized the fortresses of Hoshangabad and Seoni and three years ago wrested from my possession, Baree and Choukigarh, while Dowlat Rao Sindhia seized the forts of Islamnagar, Suhwauss and Ramgarh and plundered my territory and even the place of my residence. Having no alternative I attended by all my family and adherents abandoned my home, passed the four months of the rainy season on the bank of the Nerbudda, in the fixed determination to risk my head for the recovery of my lands.

The troops of Rajah Seinapath having carried off my son Mooz Mohd. Khan at twelve years of age from my house in captivity, I resolved in the first instance to negotiate his release, and afterwards, to obtain the restitution of Barree and Choukigarh. Accordingly Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla restored my son Mooz Mohammed Khan to me. He at the same time executed a deed of release for all the lands which he had wrested from my possession, that is to say, Sconi, Hoshangabad, Barree and Choukigarh. But the Raja's officers withheld the deed and kept it to themselves.

While I was thus employed in endeavouring to recover my lands from the hands of the usurpers Meer Khan without any invitation from me and without any necessity arrived at Jubbulpore at the Ghat, where I had taken up my quarters. I earnestly dissuaded Meer Khan from the prosecution of his wicked proceedings and when I found that it was his fixed determination to excite disturbance and commotion, I separated from him, and proceeded to the execution of my purpose of regaining possession of Barree and Choukigarh. About this time Colonel Close arrived and required me to give up the Taluk of Barree and the fort of Choukigarh on the ground of this delinquency that I had retaken them during the period of the disturbance and trouble excited by Meer Khan, and he had the kindness to promise this much that he would effect an adjustment of our differences according to the principles of equity and justice, and procure the release of my lands.

Although this was just, yet in obedience to Colonel Close, and a lapse of forty years, in consequence of my demur on my part I immediately furnished the Rajah's officers with letter to my Aumils directing them to retire from the lands.

Colonel Close having since had an opportunity of enquiring into the nature of the offences with which I was charged, is now disposed to manifest the greatest consideration towards me, but the Rajah's officers are not inclined to attend to his suggestions. I therefore hope that your Lordship adverting to the relative situation of authority and dependance between your Lordship and me will be pleased to adopt such an equitable arrangement as that by the justice and support of the British Government I may be protected against the encroachments and violence of Maha Rajah Sindhia and Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, who violating former engagements, practice tyranny and oppression and plunder and
791 destroy the houses of the poor, which will command my gratitude to your Lordship and my prayers for the prosperity of the British Government, with the most ardent devotion to its service.

A true translation.

J. MONCKTON,
Persian Secretary to Government.

To—VAZEER MOHAMMED KHAN.

Written 7th July 1810.

I have been favoured with your letter (recapitulate that received 1st July.)

With regard to the engagements to which you refer I long since issued instructions to the Magistrate of Allahabad respecting the answer to be returned to the letter which you addressed to him on that subject and you have no doubt received it.

The communications which you had with Colonel Close through your Vakeel, when that officer was in the neighbourhood of Bhopal preclude the necessity of any discussion of the transactions of that period. Colonel Close endeavoured under my directions to effect an accommodation between you and the Maha-Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, but his endeavours failed of success from causes with which you are fully acquainted.

The Maharaja is master in his own dominions and the British Government has no right to control his proceedings. If you are desirous of adjusting your differences with the Maharaja, I would recommend your dispatching a Vakeel for that purpose to Nagpur and in that event the British Resident at His Highness's Court will be authorized to assist in bringing those differences to a favourable adjustment on the terms proposed to you by Colonel Close, as I am sincerely desirous of your welfare.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 24.—This letter contains as enclosure a copy of the memorandum containing the views of the Governor-General regarding the establishment of a British force in the territories of the Bhonsla, and the motives of the Bhonsla in agreeing to this proposal. It is a fine document of diplomatic importance.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, CAMP MADRAS.

To—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Madras, the 14th April 1810.

As it may be useful that you should know from the memo. of 3rd April of His Lordship's mind relative to the Rajah's late overtures, I transmit to you the enclosed memo. in the general view of the subject then taken, His Lordship concurs in haste.

Memorandum, dated the 3rd April 1810.

The disposition of mind in which the Rajah of Nagpur has at length consented to the establishment of a British force within his territories and the motives and objects of his acquiescence demand consideration. As a general and fundamental principle it will be admitted that two parties concurring in the same arrangement should concur in the views and purposes to which it is directed. That they should enter upon it with corresponding dispositions or to state the case negatively, that they should not propose from its adoption, different and irreconcileable objects, nor in acceding to it be governed by motives not only different but incompatible and by sentiments and dispositions opposite in their nature and contradictory in their operations and effects.

Although fully aware of the Rajah's reluctance to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions, we entertained a hope that the manifest advantage of it would induce him to acquiesce in it. That is, we expected that he would be led to concur in all the declared purposes of the arrangement and to favour the operation of it in a manner calculated to accomplish those purposes. All the arguments employed to produce this train of sentiment in his mind failed of success. He considered protection on our part in the form in which it was offered to be dependence on his. He desired the benefit of the former without the humiliation of the latter and judging from past transactions that our own interests would lead us to afford him that protection in even future crisis of danger, he expected to secure the benefit of it without any corresponding concession. As this expectation was unquestionably the motive of his refusal to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions, so his present acquiescence, is to be ascribed exclusively to an apprehension that this expectation is erroneous and by a reluctant, partial jealous and guarded acquiescence in the insulated proposition for the establishment of a British force within his territories, he now hopes to secure it. He merely wishes to impose upon us an obligation to protect him against future danger and to employ our troops as auxiliaries for the aggrandizement of his dominion. It is no part of his object to concur in a wise and provident system of defensive arrangement founded on the basis of common interest and common views. The plan which we proposed is not in the slightest degree recommended to him by the facilities which it will afford to the operations of defence. He would infinitely prefer a simple declaration that we would not suffer his dominion to be subverted, combined with the return of our troops to their ordinary stations, although the difficulties of employing the requisite exertion in the hour of danger should thereby be multiplied ten fold. He consents therefore to the mere admission of our troops into his territory not because it is the best arrangement for his protection and for the general defence of the Deccan, but because he conceives that our protection in a season of eventual danger cannot otherwise be secured. He is not consequently prepared to contribute to the efficiency of that arrangement by granting the privileges and advantages which are necessary to render it efficient, such for instance as the liberty of moving the force in any direction, a free passage for detachments intended for its relief or supply a privilege of drawing supplies from any part of his territories and all the varieties of accommodation which a state sensible of the benefit arising from the presence of a protecting force would be forward to afford. It is to him an object of jealousy and apprehension. Every movement, every demand connected with the arrangement will be received with suspicion and alarm.

Ought we then without any previous stipulations, either positive with regard to the privileges and liberties which should be annexed to the establishment of a protecting force within the Rajah's territory, or negative with respect to the services on which the troops may be employed and to the restrictions upon his conduct towards other states, to which under a system of what may be termed protective alliance, he ought to be subjected, in a word without previously coming to a mutual understanding with regard to the former objects and conditions of this new connection, instantly to accept this forced and jealous invitation leaving the adjustment of all subordinate points to future negotiation? The answer is that rather than part with our protection, the Rajah will be induced to accept the terms which we may propose to him. That by immediately stationing our troops on his frontier, we do not commit ourselves to the arrangement since it will always be at our option to withdraw them if he refuses to agree to necessary terms. That if we fail to take advantage of the Rajah's present disposition to admit a British force, the opportunity may be lost. The course of events may remove the Rajah's present sense of danger and jealousy of his independance again take the lead in his mind. That the force proposed to be stationed to the northward of the Nerbudda will be sufficiently strong to overcome any that can be brought against it, and that there will always be time to add to it if necessary for its security either from Bundelkhand or Berar. That the grand object is to plant a force in that situation, when once stationed there, the Rajah will feel the benefit of its presence, will become accustomed to it, and reconciled to it by finding that in reality his independance is not affected by it, that he will gradually fall into that state of dependance in which the Nizam and Peshwa are placed and which is the natural consequence of a connection between power and weakness and that ultimately all our views will be completely attained although in the early stage of the arrangement we may be exposed to inconvenience and embarrassment.

There is one major point of view in which the question may be considered. The Raja has manifested towards us a most offensive spirit of suspicion while he owes his political existence at this moment to the aid, which at an enormous expense we reasonably afforded him. Far from acknowledging the slightest sense of obligation he ascribes his relief from danger exclusively to the prowess of his own arms and attributes our gratuitous exertions to views directed against the independance of his Government. On these grounds he rejected our proposal for the establishment of a subsidiary force within his territories at the time when the presence of our troops afforded the immediate opportunity of carrying the arrangement into effect. But when their return towards their ordinary stations has excited his apprehensions for the safety of his country, he condescends to accept the benefit of our protection on his own terms. He grants as a concession the permission to defend him at our own expense and expects in return that we should submit to every restraint that his jealousy suggests and assist him at our own charge in conquering territories for his benefit. Is it consistent with due dignity and sobriety of political conduct, instantly to accept this yaught (naught) but tardy offer? Should we not by this eagerness to obtain a footing in his country on any terms give a warrant to the suggestions of his exterior jealously and suspicion? Ought we not rather to maintain the principle of our original proposition and refuse to accept on the basis of an obligation conferred upon us, his consent to an arrangement from which he will derive the principal advantage without any sacrifice, while the burthen, inconvenience and expence of it fall exclusively upon us?

It may be said that this would be sacrificing the substance for the sake of the shadow and hazarding the loss of an arrangement highly beneficial to ourselves and hitherto the object of anxious pursuit, for the empty name of dignity and this argument is valid, if dignity of political conduct is not essential to the stability of power.

It may be useful to consider upon what terms it is consistent with our views and interests to consent to the establishment of a British force within the Rajah's dominions and what other Military arrangements should be combined with it.

The first point to be determined, is on what services our troops shall be employed. Unless the Raja contributes to defray the charges of the force he cannot be entitled to claim its services for any other purpose than the defence of his country against external attack. But it will be necessary to define what is to be considered as such. The protection of his country from external attack seems of necessity to require that, we should possess a control over his conduct, we may else be involved in wars the result of the Rajah's policy, his injustice or his imprudence. This control could alone be established by stipulations relative to our arbitration of disputes such as are inserted in the treaties of alliance with the Nizam and Peshwa. To this however the Rajah will not certainly be induced to consent nor to the restriction upon his intercourse with other states and if these stipulations are rendered indispensable, the arrangement most probably be abandoned, yet some restraint seems absolutely requisite. Supposing for instance the present negotiation with Vazeer Mohammed Khan failing, the Rajah should prosecute hostilities against Bhopal, are we to interfere, or rather could we avoid interfering? Could we admit the principle that he may invade his neighbour or otherwise engage in foreign contest without control and when he should be brought in a state of danger, we shall be bound to employ our troops for his defence.

Perhaps the only alternative of restrictive stipulations such as are contained in the treaties of Hyderabad and Bassein is a declaration that we will take no part in any project against Bhopal or directed to the objects of conquest.

It will be necessary to determine whether the incursions of the Pindaries are to be repelled by us.

The troops should have the privilege of changing their position and not be limited as the Rajah proposes, to one specific place namely the place best adopted to the purposes of defence. A free passage for our troops through the country north or south of the Nerbudda must it is presumed be demanded.

It is worthy of consideration whether we ought not to insist on the Rajah's contributing at least to the extra expence of the proposed arrangement, as an arrangement of which he so largely partakes the benefit, more especially under the circumstances of distinct and restriction which have attended his assent to it.

But if this be not insisted on, ought we not to require that he should agree to bear a part of the expenses which will attend future occasions of exertion for his defence or for his benefit.

All these and probably other points which will occur on further reflection, are subjects of deliberation and some if not all of negotiation, can they prudently be left to be determined and negotiated after the actual advance of the troops into the Rajah's country.

It may be observed generally, that if the Rajah had cordially and candidly entered into our views of common interests and security and united with us in the principle of the defensive arrangement as originally proposed to him, if he had not invited the establishment of a body of our troops for purposes of separate advantages and under the influence of a disposition inconsistent with that mutual confidence which should form the basis of the proposed arrangement, the necessity of precautionary stipulations would have been precluded. In that event as was observed in the instructions to Mr. Jenkins of the 14th of December, no stipulation of a nature obnoxious or objectionable to the Rajah could be indispensably required.

It is further to be considered whether the troops can prudently be so advanced without making some arrangement for their eventual support. This is a military question and Military authorities seem to think no such arrangement necessary. The necessity indeed might be precluded by an augmentation of the force. But the expence would be in proportion. If it be necessary, a post should be established on the Wardha and another towards the Southern frontier of Bundelkhand and the measures for that purpose should be in progress when the troops advance to the northward of the Nerbudda.

There will probably be one great advantage in the immediate advance of the troops in the event certainly probably of the failure of the negotiation commenced through the medium of Colonel Close between Vazeer Mohammed Khan and the Rajah. The former may then be expected to call in the assistance of Amir Khan and the Pindaries and if in consequence of the previous discussion and adjustment of all the foregoing points a body of troops is ultimately to be stationed to the northward of the Nerbudda, we should have to advance it. in the face of an enemy; for the junction of Vazeer Mohammed Khan with Amir Khan and the Pindaries would constitute a case in which we should be under the necessity of interfering we then commence a new campaign and must regulate our preparations accordingly, whereas by advancing our troops immediately we should be enabled to offer our guarantee to any accommodation between Bhopal and Nagpur which apparently is the only obstacle to the conclusion of such accommodation. Indeed it would be necessary that we should prevent the Rajah from carrying on hostilities against Bhopal unless it was our best policy to unite with him in subduing it and the presence of our troops would prevent their assemblage of hostile troops in Bhopal and obviate the contingency of a contest. It would also secure Seronge.

Leter No. 25.—The letter intimates that the Nawab of Bhopal was not inclined to come to an adjustment of his differences with the Rajah of Berar on the basis of the terms formerly proposed by Colonel Close.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 16th November 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your two dispatches of the 17th ultimo stating that the Nabob of Bhopal is not inclined to come to an adjustment of his differences with the Rajah of Berar on the basis of the terms formerly proposed by Colonel Close.

2. His Lordship-in-Council deeming it inadvisable to deviate from the liberal conditions originally prescribed entirely concurs in opinion with you that no benefit can, under existing circumstances, be derived from entering into any farther discussion with the Vakeel and therefore approves your conduct in having scrupulously avoided laying open the subject to the Rajah's ministers.

Leter No. 26.—In this letter Edmonstone conveys the Governor-General's satisfaction at the Bhonsla's solicitations for a subsidiary alliance. But Jenkins is directed to intimate that since the opportunity of forming such an alliance had passed off, the question will be considered in due course. He is asked to impress upon the Bhonsla that the object of such an alliance is defensive and not annexation or curtailment of the indepenence, of the acceding state.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 9th February 1811.

I have the honour by the command of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General-in-Council to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. ...., dated the 6th ultimo reporting the substance of your conference with the ministers of the Rajah in consequence of the Rajah's renewed solicitation for the conclusion of a Subsidiary alliance with the British Government, and communicate to you the sentiments and resolutions of his Lordship-in-Council on that important subject.

2. I am instructed however in the first instance to signify to you the Governor-General-in-Council's entire approbation of the tenor of your discourse to the Rajah's minister, which appears to have been distinguished by a peculiar degree of judgment and discretion. You pointed out with great force and propriety the erroneous views taken by the Court, of the principle and object of the alliance, as originally proposed by this Government, and judiciously endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the Rajah and his ministers the purely defensive nature of it and its incompatibility with any views of conquest or extension of dominion.

3. The reason which you assigned for this Government not having renewed the negotiation for the conclusion of a subsidiary alliance, aggreably to the intimation formerly conveyed to you, were perfectly proper, Government indeed had little encouragement to urge a proposition which although involving advantages to the Rajah far greater than those to be derived from it by the camps had yet been received with indications of jealousy and distrust and answered by the demand of limitations and concessions

inconsistent with the spirit and subversive of the efficiency of the meditated alliance. But a more prominent and operating cause of this Government suspending the further agitation of the question, originated in the arrangements of the expedition to the French Islands. The equipment of another distant expedition must continue for some further time to preclude the negotiation; since in the event of its terminating in the conclusion of a defensive alliance, the Military arrangements which the provisions of the alliance would require, could not be conveniently adopted until the return of the troops engaged in the pending enterprize.*

4. The prosecution of a measure indeed of such magnitude and importance both in its immediate operation and its eventual consequences, as the formation of a subsidiary connection with the state of Nagpur, obviously requires on grounds of expediency that Government should be free from the exigencies of another important and extensive undertaking; for although the system of measures connected with the enterprize now in progress has been framed in such a manner as to leave the means of adequately meeting every supposable emergency of a local and incidental nature, yet in a case, which without compromising the public for the interests of Government, admits the option of suspending or prosecuting an arrangement involving the immediate employment of a considerable body of troops beyond the limits of the British territories and an essential change in the political system of India of which the effects and consequences cannot be foreseen with certainty, it is evidently proper to select the person for agitating this important question, with reference to considerations of convenience.

5. These observations are stated for the express purpose of being communicated to the Rajah and his ministers. His Lordship-in-Council readily authorizes you, in making this communication to the court to assure the Rajah and his ministers that the resolution of Government to suspend the negotiation, is entirely uninfluenced by any feelings of resentment for the manner in which the Governor-General's proposition was originally received. It is satisfactory to Government to learn that the Rajah has ultimately done justice to the motives which dictated it and has formed a correct judgment of the objects to which it was directed; but having neglected that opportunity of securing the advantages of a closer connection with the British power, he cannot justly complain, if when the exigencies of his own affairs have rendered him the proposer of the alliance, this Government refers a consideration of the subject to a more convenient season; nor will he hereafter have any more reasonable cause of complaint, if, even in the event of his being disposed to negotiate in the pure spirit of defensive policy and to accede to all those stipulations which a subsidiary and defensive Treaty would require, this Government should ultimately find it expedient to decline the very arrangement which it formerly offered to his acceptance and it may be proper that these observations also should be stated in terms of delicacy to the Rajah, in

order that Government may not appear to be committed to the conclusion of the projected alliance when the circumstances which at present require a suspension of the negotiation, shall cease to exist.

6. The resolution thus adopted precludes the necessity of entering at present into a discussion of the question relative to Bhopal and Garha Kota, but with reference to the eventual resumption of the negotiation for a subsidiary alliance, I am directed to desire that you will turn your attention to the intermediate acquisition of information regarding the validity of the right of sovereignty over those territories which are claimed by the Rajah.

Letter No. 27.—Edmonstone reports that the Governor-General was leaving the Presidency and that during his absence the C.-in-C. will be in charge.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 5th March 1811.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to His Highness the Maharaja Raghojee Bhonsla, Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao Ramchandra, announcing His Lordship's intended departure from this Presidency on the 9th instant and stating that the local administration will devolve on His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief during His Lordship's absence.

2. Copies of His Lordship's letters, in the English and Persian languages, accompany for your information.

TO—HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA RAGHOJEE BHONSLA.

Written 5th March 1811.

As the interests of the British Government demand my presence in a distant quarter, and as the state of affairs on this side of India is such as to admit of my absence, I have determined to embark from Fort William on the 9th instant, and shall proceed in the first instance to Fort St. George and from thence to the place of my destination.

The distance of the quarter to which I am about to proceed will prevent me from holding any communication with your Highness by letter after my departure, but I trust that the suspension of our correspondence will be of short duration, as my absence from Bengal will probably not be protracted beyond the period of a few months.

In the meantime the Government of this Presidency will devolve on His Excellency Lieutenant-General Hewett, the Commander-in-Chief of King's and Company's forces in India, with whom I request that your Highness will be pleased to correspond on all points connected with the interests of the two states until my return, and whose communications I further request your Highness to receive as of the same force and validity as my own. I trust that believing me, etc.

Letter No. 28.—Edmonstone reports that Rajah Jhujhar Singh of Raigarh had given shelter to two Zamindars, fugitives from the territory of Sambalpur, under the rule of Nana Saheb. He is to be asked to withdraw his protection from them, failing which he will forfeit the protection of the British Government.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 19th April 1811.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 28th ultimo containing a report of the conduct of Rajah Joujar Singh of Raigarh in affording protection to two Zamindars fugitives from the territory of Sambalpore.

2. His Excellency the Vice-President-in-Council is decidedly of opinion that whatever may be the merits or demerits of the Zamindars in question Rajah Joujar Singh is precluded by the obligation of his engagements from affording them protection since he is not permitted to take advantage of his dependance upon the British Government to obstruct the exercise of the authority of the Mahrattas in the neighbouring territory subject to their dominion. At the same time His Excellency-in-Council does not consider him to be required to seize and surrender the persons of the Zamindars but merely to compel them to quit the district of Raigarh. You will therefore be pleased to signify to him by letter in reply to that which he has addressed to you, the positive expectation of the British Government that he will withdraw his protection from the Zamindars intimating to him that by refusing or evading a compliance with this requisition he will incur the hazard of forfeiting his connection with the British Government and you will exhort him on the same ground to abstain from all interference direct or indirect in the concerns of the Marhatta Government intimating to him that by any further well-substantiated act of obstruction he will incur the penalty of a violation of his engagements.

Letter No. 29.—It reports the death of Nana Sahib, Raghoji Bhonsla's brother at Benares, where he had gone on a pilgrimage, in the morning of 26th July 1811.

FROM—W. A. BROOKE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BENARES.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Benares, the 26th July 1811.

I have the honour to report to you for the information of His Excellency the Vice-President-in-Council that His Highness Nana Sahib died early this morning after a painful and lingering illness.

2. I shall not fail to proceed to the Nana's house to condole with the family on the occasion, the moment I ascertain that they are at leisure to receive me and I shall continue the same attentions to them which have hitherto been manifested to the deceased.

3. Minute Guns, corresponding in number with the age of the deceased, forty-six, have been fired as a mark of respect to the deceased and his family, and I have apprized the Resident at Nagpur of the event by express.

Letter No. 30.—It reports the appointment of Balwant Rao Anant as the Bhonsla's Vakeel at Calcutta and the Governor General's approval of it.

FROM—J. MONCKTON, PERSIAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 30th August 1811.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information, the enclosed copies in the English and Persian languages, of letters which His Excellency the Vice-President-in-Council has addressed to the Rajah of Nagpur and His Highness's principal Ministers, in reply to letters to the Governor-General's address which were delivered by His Highness's Vakeel Balwant Rao Anant on his arrival at the Presidency.

2. The originals of the Vice-President's replies have been delivered to the Vakeel.

TO—HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH OF NAGPUR.

Written 30th August 1811.

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's address by the hands of Balwant Rao Anant (Recapitulate that received 14th May 1811.)

The sentiments of friendship and attachment which it conveys are highly gratifying to me, and are a proof of your Highness's disposition to improve the amicable connection so happily established between the two states.

I entirely approve your Highness's selection of Balwant Rao Anant to remain with the British Government in the situation of Vakeel on your part, and your Highness may be assured that the respect and esteem of this Government for you will always secure him every proper mark of regard and attention. I am satisfied that by his faithful conduct he will continue to deserve the favour and confidence of both states.

Letter No. 31.—This is a covering note to the Governor-General's letter to Raghojee Bhonsla in which the former narrates the details of the military operations against the French in Java which terminated in the conquest of that island with all its dependencies and in the complete subversion of the French power in the Eastern Archipelago.

From—J. MONCKTON, PERSIAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 23rd November 1811.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, to His Highness Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and His Highness's Ministers Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao Ramchandra, announcing His Lordship's return to the Presidency on the 16th instant and the conquest of Java and its dependancies by the British forces under the command of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty.

Copies of His Lordship's letters, in the English and Persian languages, accompany for your information.

To—HIS HIGHNESS RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA.

Written 23rd November 1811.

Your Highness was apprized by my letter of the 5th of March last that I was about to proceed by the way of Madras to a distant quarter, where the interests of the British Government demanded my presence.

I have now the honour to inform your Highness that having arrived at Madras on the 5th of April, I sailed from that presidency on the 24th of the same month to the Eastward accompanied by an Army under the personal command of Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, Commander-in-Chief of the King's and Company's forces on the Coast of Coromandel, for the purpose of taking possession of the large and valuable French island of Java. The Army arrived off that island on the 1st of August and on landing commenced its operations by marching direct to Batavia the capital which surrendered without opposition. The Army then advanced

* * * *

After making the necessary arrangements for the future administration of Java I left the island on the 20th ultimo, and returned safely to Fort William on the 18th instant, after a short passage of 28 days.

Letter No. 32.—Col. Conran writes that the movement of a detachment for the protection of Nagpur, which he had order had been approved. He further reports that since Jenkins had informed him that the news of Karim Khan's crossing the Nerbudda was incorrect, he does not think it advisable to march until he hears further from Jenkins.

FROM—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

TO—HENRY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Jalna, the 4th December 1811.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo and am extremely happy to find that the measure I took upon myself in despatching force for the protection of the British Resident at Nagpur has been approved of, the amount of which I considered as absolutely necessary to ensure safety, and as there is a latitude allowed on this point in your last letter I have made no alteration in it but ordered Major Custance to pursue his route with all prudent expedition. My original instructions to that officer and a return of his detachment are enclosed.

The force under my command is ready to move on the shortest notice but as your instructions of the 30th ultimo appear to have been written under the impression of Karim Khan having crossed the Nerbudda which intelligence Mr. Jenkins now informs me was incorrect, I think it advisable not to march until (we hear) further from that gentleman.

It is my intention to leave one hundred men of each Battalion of Infantry with a full proportion of European and Native Officers for the protection of the cantonment.

The light Field Artillery intends to accompany the force when it moves which consist of Two 12-Pounders, Six 6-Pounders and Two 5½..................Howitzers exclusive of the Regimental guns of the Cavalry.

. Copies of all letters I may have occasion to write to you concerning the Pindaries shall be sent to the Resident at Poona and Nagpur.

Present state of a Detachment of the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment Commanded by Major Custance.

Camp Donegaon 3rd December 1811	Major	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Adjutants	Assistant Surgeons.	Subedars	Jemadars	Havildars	Drummers	Prekallers	Naiks	Privates	Total of rank and file.	Sepoy recruits
Present ..	1	7	1	1	1	5	7	37	16	10	31	604	635	10
Total ..	1	7	1	1	1	5	7	37	16	10	31	604	635	10

N. B.—A Brigade of 6-pounders completely manned and equipped attached to the above force.

G. CUSTANCE, Major,
1st Battalion, 20th Regiment.

Letter No. 33.—Major Custance is required to leave two companies for the safety of Nagpur Residency and an order from Colonel Conran descriptive of the personnel and equipments of the companies is enclosed.

From—MAJOR G. CUSTANCE, 1st BN. 20th REGT.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp at Nagpur, the 27th December 1811.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of instructions this day received from Colonel Conran.

Lieutenant Baker will be left in command of the two companies.

To—MAJOR CUSTANCE, COMMANDING A DETACHMENT AT NAGPUR.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to leave two companies of the Corps under your command at Nagpur to be placed under the orders of the British Resident there. With the remainder of your Corps, you will move as soon as convenient for the purpose of joining the force under my command by the enclosed route.

The two companies to be left are to be completed each to the following strength :—

One European Officer.
One Subedar.
One Jemadar.
Five Havildars.
Five Naiks.
One Drummer.
One Piper.
Eighty Privates.
One Puchally.

You will select one European Officer to command the whole of the Madras Detachment left at Nagpur, Artillery included, and one Jemadar to act as Native Adjutant.

An officer of experience, zeal and attention is to be chosen for this command.

The following instructions with regard to the Musket and Ammunition for the detachment left at Nagpur are to be strictly attended to.

In each Man's Pouch, Twenty six rounds, and one spare flint.

To be left in store, one hundred and fifty rounds per man, and four flints per man. I request you will call the Officer's attention to be left in command to this important charge, not only in regard to the distribution and use of the ammunition............ but also as to the place or places the ammunition is to be kept in. The Serjeant of Artillary left with the gun is the proper person to have the immediate care and stowing of it and I recommend that the whole should not be kept in one place but so divided that an accident happening to one part would not communicate with the other.

As it is necessary that the Detachment left at Nagpur should be as efficient as possible I desire that not a single stand of arms, the least imperfect should be left with it.

You will be pleased to make known to the Resident the contents of this letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
HENERY CONRAN,
Colonel.

Camp near Kolhapore.
December 24th 1811.

SAMBALPUR AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—Jenkins reports the substance of his conference with Jeswant Rao Ramchandra about the complicity of Jhujhar Singh, Rajah of Raigarh, in instigating hostility of the Rani of Sambalpur against Nana Sahib's attempts to take possession of those tracts.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Nagpur, the 30th October 1807.

The day before yesterday I received a visit from Jeswant Rao Ramchandra, and I now have the honour to submit to your Lordship the substance of our conference on that occasion.

2. After some general conversation Jeswant Rao proceeded to inform me that the Rajah had sent him to me at the request of Nana Sahib. The subject of his communication he said, related to the late conduct of Joujar Singh of Raigarh whose influence had entirely prevented the success of Nana Sahib's negotiations for the peaceable occupation of Sambalpore. He begged to call to my recollection a communication to the same effect which had been made to Mr. Elphinstone a few months before that gentleman's departure, and as Nana Sahib intended shortly to send troops to that quarter, he wished first to be informed of the determination of Government respecting Joujar Singh's conduct since, according to the treaty by which the provinces of Sambalpore and Patna were restored to the Rajah, it was agreed that if Joujar Singh should by intrigues or otherwise instigate the Zamindars to opposition, the British Government would no longer consider that Chief to be entitled to its protection, and that the Rajah might in such case adopt whatever measures he thought proper towards Joujar Singh. Jeswant Rao concluded by saying that Nana Sahib had thought it incumbent upon him to consult me on the occasion, and that he was always anxious to merit the friendship and confidence of your Lordship.

3. In reply I told Jeswant Rao that I had a perfect recollection of the substance of the communication which had been made to Mr. Elphinstone, and which that gentleman had described in his correspondence with Government. This communication, however, with relation to Joujar Singh, stated only, as far as I could recollect, in general terms that the Zamindars had formed a confederacy of which Joujar Singh of Raigarh was the real head; but that I did not remember any particular circumstances which were alleged to substantiate this charge; and consequently I did not see, with what regard to justice, so vague an accusation could be deemed conclusive against Joujar Singh, or that Government had been called upon to pass any decision where no proofs were brought forward to constitute grounds even for an enquiry. Jeswant Rao said that every account from Sambalpore mentioned Joujar Singh as the support of the opposition which the Zamindars had made to the establishment of Nana Sahib's authority in that quarter; that the person who was sent by Keshao Govind to Sambalpore where he remained for a considerable time was now here, and might be called to testify the intrigues carried on by Joujar Singh to mar the negotiation, and that without Joujar Singh's assistance either open or covert, none of the other Zamindars would have ventured to resist. That under these circumstances, the Rajah had expected that Joujar Singh would no longer be allowed to profit by our protection.

4. I said I had no doubt that your Lordship would be very willing to decide equitably upon any evidence which might be produced of Joujar Singh's misconduct, and that his guilts were established he would certainly forfeit the advantage of our support, but that the faith of Government was pledged to protect him as long as his conduct entitled him to protection and that an engagement so sacred could not be set aside upon slight or insufficient grounds. It was stated on the treaty of cession that if Joujar Singh should excite the Zamindars to resistance by his intrigues or by otherwise espousing their cause against the Rajah's Government, the Raja should communicate the circumstances in the first instance to the Governor General that it would remain for Government to examine and finally decide upon the circumstances so adduced. I said I should wish to be able to submit to your Lordship a circumstantial statement of the facts alleged by Nana Sahib's officers against Joujar Singh but that none such had yet been stated.

5. Jeswant Rao said that the person who had been sent to Sambalpore by Keshao Govind could be called upon for this purpose and that what had been mentioned to Mr. Elphinstone as well as the present communication was brought forward in conformity to the Treaty of cession. He said it was probable that the force which might be sent to Sambalpore, would have to oppose some of Joujar Singh's troops, united with those of the Zamindars, and in that case what was to be done. I replied that there could be no distinction made on such a case but that in no event should

the territories of Joujar Singh be molested until he should be declared by your Lordship to be out of our protection. Jeswant Rao again repeated what had been mentioned respecting the intrigues of Joujar Singh and he said it was evident that Joujar Singh would interfere with no other object than that of exciting the Zamindars to rebellion. That such was his object was rendered more certain by his supplying the Rani of Sambalpore with a quota of troops for the defence of the fort.

6. What Jeswant Rao had then stated, I said, was a matter of fact which was more capable of proof than the vague accusation of intrigues ascribed to Joujar Singh, and I asked whether any evidence could be brought forward to authenticate it. Jeswant Rao again referred to the account of the person who was sent to Sambalpore by Keshao Govind, and he enquired the Karkoon who was sent by Mr. Elphinstone with the troops detached to occupy Sambalpore. I replied in the negative and that as the Karkoon did not go to Sambalpore, he had no means of ascertaining that fact, in short that his knowledge was confined to the reports which he heard in the Camp respecting Joujar Singh.

7. Jeswant Rao then asked what he should report as my answer to the communication he had been directed to make on the subject. I recapitulated the substance of my different replies above described and said that I should defer addressing your Lordship until I should be able to state more circumstantially the charges alleged against Joujar Singh and that I need hardly repeat the obligation which the British Government lay under, of protecting that Zamindar's territories, until his misconduct should be proved to your Lordship's satisfaction. At the same time I requested Jeswant Rao would express to the Rajah and Nana Sahib my conviction that your Lordship would adhere to the terms of the engagement contracted through Mr. Elphinstone with the most scrupulous regard to good faith and to the interests of His Highness's Government.

8. Some conversation on other topics then ensued which I shall do myself the honour of stating in a subsequent part of this dispatch. I now proceed to describe another conference on the subject of Joujar Singh which I had yesterday with Jeswant Rao, who came to the Residency accompanied by Kesheo Govind and Jonojee Bunsor the person sent by Nana Sahib's manager to Sambalpore as mentioned by Jeswant Rao at the former interview.

9. Jeswant Rao commenced the conversation by informing me that he had stated to the Rajah and Nana Sahib all the particulars of my discourse of the former day, and that both His Highness and his brother were fully sensible of the just and honourable motives which even actuated the British Government. That in order to enable me to submit to your Lordship a circumstantial relation of Joujar Singh's misconduct, Nana Sahib had ordered his manager Keshao Govind who superintended the negotiations with

the Ranee of Sambalpore and Janojee Bunsor who actually resided for a considerable time at Sambalpore, to wait upon me on his part, and Jeswant Rao referred me to Keshao Govind for the particulars which I was desirous to ascertain.

10. **Keshao Govind** then at Jeswant Rao's desire proceeded to state that he had proceeded with a force for the purpose of taking possession of Sambalpore and that all the Zamindars with whom he had communicated expressed themselves entirely willing to submit, but that a confederacy had been formed under Joujar Singh's influence to oppose the entrance of the troops, and he had not thought proper at that time to persist in using force where he hoped he should be able to succeed by negotiation. This was accordingly attempted and the Ranee submitted to receive a small part of about twenty-five men with whom Janojee Bunsor was stationed, into her country, although she would not receive them into the fort. In the interim Keshao Govind had returned to Ratanpur and the troops remained encamped at Sewree Narain on the Mahanadi under Sakharam Gopal. The negotiation was continued for three months during which Janojee Bunsor remained at Sambalpore. The Ranee's demand was to be left in the management of Atharagarh of which she would engage to collect and pay the annual tribute to an officer appointed to remain at Sambalpore, but the release of her husband and son formed the only terms upon which she would consent to give up the fort. Keshao Govind was proceeding with a further description of the negotiations, when I interrupted him by remarking that there was no necessity to mention anything with which Joujar Singh was not connected, and that I could have no opinion to give relative to the negotiations with the Zamindars or subjects of this Government.

11. Keshao Govind referred to Janojee Bansor to mention the circumstances of Joujar Singh's conduct which came to his knowledge during his stey at Sambalpore. This person stated that a confidential agent of Joujar Singh had been always stationed with the Ranee, who adopted no resolution without his concurrence and that the advice which he gave to the Ranee was known to have caused her opposition to the admission of Nana Sahib's troops into the fort, that although this agent professed his master to be entirely unconnected with the Zamindars, it was known that Joujar Singh would send troops to the Ranee's assistance, if she were attacked, and when the other Zamindars assembled their troops he had collected his to co-operate with them. I asked whether the Agent who was described to be in the fort had any force with him. Janojee Bansor said that although Joujar Singh continued within his own territory, the object of his preparation was to assist the Ranee who certainly depended upon his aid but that there were only eight or ten men at that time with the Agent in the fort of Sambalpore, and in case more were required they would have been secretly sent by Joujar Singh. I asked several other questions but without being able to ascertain either from Keshao Govind or Janojee Bansor that there was any more direct charge against Joujar Singh.

12. The substance of the whole of their allegations I understood to be that Joujar Singh's intrigues and promises of aid although they might not admit of direct evidence had in fact induced the opposition which had been made by the Zamindars. The existence of these intrigues they wished to prove by the presence of a confidential agent of Joujar Singh, whose name they could not mention, at Sambalpore by his influence with the Ranee, by the preparations stated to have been made by Joujar Singh within his territory in concert with the other Zamindars, by the general character of Joujar Singh who is represented to be ambitious and enterprising and to possess great influence with the Zamindars; and lastly by the ill success of the negotiation, which they allege would have succeeded had Joujar Singh's Agent employed his master's interposition to any other purpose than that of exciting opposition or had Joujar Singh, as was his duty, avoided all interference in the business.

13. Jeswant Rao then requested that I would submit the particulars which had been described to me for your Lordship's decision, but Keshao Govind said that Nana Sahib considered me to be your Lordship's representative, and expected that Joujar Singh would not be protected. With regard to what had been stated by Keshao Govind and Janojee Bunsor, I said I did not conceive that I was called upon to give my opinion either generally or particularly, as it was to be referred to your Lordship's decision. To the latter remark of Keshao, however, I opposed the terms of the treaty of cession a copy of which I produced, and read the article respecting Joujar Singh. I said it could never be expected that your Lordship would put Joujar Singh out of the company's protection until the result of an investigation should prove that he had been guilty of those specific acts by which he is declared to forfeit his right to that protection; that every Government must be the sole judge of its own obligations, and that on this principle the British Government had reserved the right of deciding upon the facts which might be brought forward to involve the dissolution of its engagement with Joujar Singh; that I should accordingly submit everything which I had heard to your Lordship.

14. I then enquired whether it was intended to send troops to Sambalpore immediately, in which case I deemed it proper to repeat the propriety of abstaining from any attempt against Joujar Singh's territory. Jeswant Rao assented to this caution and Keshao Govind said that Nana Sahib would do nothing contrary to my advice in the business. With respect to my enquiry Keshao Govind said that some delay would take place in sending a force to Sambalpore, and that an answer from Calcutta would probably arrive in the meantime.

15. Nothing further passed at this conference. As it was Keshao Govind's first visit, I presented him and the person who accompanied him with the dresses usual on the occasion.

16. Enclosed in this dispatch I have the honour to transmit the translation of a report which I ordered Kundoo Pant, the Karkoon who was sent by Mr. Elphinstone to accompany the troops to Sambalpore, to draw up of his proceedings. I was very particular in my enquiries to ascertain the extent of the alleged misconduct of Joujar Singh, but the Karkoon's information on this subject your Lordship will observe to be very confined. I have before alluded to a report of Nana Sahib's intention to release the imprisoned Rajas whose confinement appears by all accounts to be the principal obstacle to the success of Nana Sahib's negotiations with the Ranee of Sambalpore. I have no intelligence that throws any further light upon the accusations against Joujar Singh. It is said that Keshao Govind will proceed against the Bustar Raja previously to any attempt upon Sambalpore, and the delay mentioned by Keshao Govind renders this account probable.

17. In order to preserve a connected detail of everything which passed relative to the Zamindar of Raigarh, I referred the relation of the remaining heads of my first conference with Jeswant Rao to a subsequent part of my dispatch. I now beg leave to describe them for your Lordship's notice.

18. When the conversation respecting Joujar Singh was concluded, Jeswant Rao proceeded to inform me that a person named Oomajee Puthel had a day or two before arrived at Nagpur, in the capacity of a Vakeel from Jeswant Rao Holkar; that the object of his mission was not yet known as he had not been admitted to an audience in consequence of the intervention of the Dewali festival but that it was supposed he had particular business to communicate to the Rajah, and that he had made a point of giving me the earliest intelligence of the Vakeel's arrival. I told Jeswant Rao that I was obliged to him for the information, and I asked whether any change had taken place in Holkar's situation. Jeswant Rao replied that Holkar was still encamped at Rampoorah-Bhampoorah, but that he had ordered all his chiefs who were cantoned in different places in the vicinity, to attend him, and that it was supposed the consultations would terminate in some expedition. I said it was not to be supposed that Holkar would remain fixed at Rampoorah, and that I concluded he might visit Muheshwar according to the plan which was formerly mentioned. Jeswant Rao said that it was probable he would come to Maheshwar in the first instance he believed also that Holkar was very pressing with Sindhia to join him at the meeting in order to determine upon their mutual plans of operation. I said it was not probable that Sindhia would forget the result of the last interview, whatever might be Holkar's desire.

19. Jeswant Rao then mentioned that he heard a report which he did not know how to credit, that a correspondence has been discovered between Jeswant Rao Holkar, and (in figures) in which the latter reproached Holkar for not performing his engagements and Holkar defended his mission by pleading his want of funds to

support his troops. The engagements, Jeswant Rao said, were not mentioned expressly in the report, but he had heard they were directed to an attack upon the company. He said that he mentioned the intelligence merely in the way of friendship as he had heard it, and supposed it was one of those........................which are frequently circulated to promote the ends of designing persons. I replied that there was so much improbability on the face of the report that I need not enlarge upon it to him who judged so well of the general origin of such accounts, and that I had heard nothing of the kind.

20. I do not recollect that anything further passed which I need intrude upon your Lordship's notice.

Translation of a Marahatta report received by Mr. Jenkins from the Karkoon Kundoo Punt, who returned to Nagpur in the month of August 1807.

I set out in company with Janoo Raghonath from Nagpur (in September 1806) and arrived at Ratanpore in twenty days. Keshao Govind (Nana Sahib's manager) was employed in raising troops for which he detained us about 15 days. He then desired us to go to succeed Gopal who was encamped with a force on the Mahanadi at a village named Sewari Narain, and told us that he would send the troops after us. I remained about two months and a half at Sewri when Keshao Govind ordered Sakharam Gopal to return to Ratanpore, about 300 Infantry and the same number of horse at length arrived from Ratanpore and we marched to Sarangarh.

In the interim Keshao Govind had sent Sakharam Vishwanath with 25 men to be stationed as a Thana at Sambalpore. These the Ranee received with proper attention and kept them three months, during which time nothing was heard of them in camp. Keshao Govind then sent a pair of Hircarrahs to Sakharam Wishwanath with a present of cloth for the Ranee, and the Hircarrahs returned in the course of a month with intelligence that all the Zamindars of Atharagarh were united; that they had stopped up the passes and Ghats, and were ready for battle, and that the Ranee said she would give up the fort upon the terms only of her husband and son being released from confinement. This account Keshao Govind wrote to Sreemunt (Nana Sahib).

After this Pudmunath Bukshee Kayat and Chote Guru of Gangpur were sent from Sambalpore to negotiate. They proposed that the tribute of Atharagarh should be fixed and that the money should be paid in any way which might be thought proper. That if they wished to have a Thana at Sambalpore, 50 or 100 men might be stationed without the fort, and that the Ranee would obey all orders, only let her have the internal management of the country. Two months were wasted in this kind of wrangling. At length

Janajee Bunsor Naik and Narhari of Sambalpore arrived from Nagpur with presents from Sreemant to the Ranee. It was debated whether the Raigarh man should be taken with them to Sambalpore, Narhari opposed going through Raigarh and said that he would engage to get the Thana delivered over to Boetreea and another respectable person from Raigarh was at Sarangarh, during two months. When asked whether Joujar Singh was engaged in treachery, they said they took no part but that whoever obtained the musnad it would be indifferent to them. Janojee Bunsor, Antajee Naik Geedur and Narhari went to Sambalpore, and Pudhmanath Bukshee went to mediate. Two months elapsed during which we heard nothing more. Four men who accompanied them from Sarangarh returned. These reported that the Ranee proposed to give up the fort, only upon the release of her husband and son. ....that the amount of tribute should be settled. If they meant to attack her she said that she would oppose them as long as she was able, and then fly to the hills and destroy the country. It had better therefore not send troops against her.

In the manner above described nine months elapsed. Although Butree of Raigarh declared solemnly that they have no kind of connection with either party, it was said every where in the Bhonsla's Camp that the Raigarh man was connected in the business.

Letter No. 2.—Edmonstone intimates that the Governor General approved of the replies given by Jenkins to the accusations against Jhujhar Singh. The enclosure is a letter from Governor General to the Rajah warning him against any complicity in the hostilities against Nana Sahib.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 23rd November 1807.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 4 dated the 30th ultimo reporting the substance of your conferences with the Rajah's Minister Jeswant Rao Ramchandra on the subject of the alleged conduct of Rajah Joujar Singh of Raigarh in encouraging the opposition of the Ranee of Sambalpur and others to resist the authority of the Mahrattas.

2. The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council entirely approves the tenor of your replies to the communications which you received upon that subject and concurs in opinion with you that no fact has in any degree been established of a nature to support the justice of the accusation against Rajah Joujar Singh. With a view however to manifest the solicitude of the British Government to promote the interests and wishes of the Raja of Berar

as well as to withdraw Rajah Joujar Singh from proceedings which although by no means proved appear to the Governor-General in Council to be far from improbable, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council has addressed a perwannah to Rajah Joujar Singh of which an English copy is enclosed. A persian copy of it will be transmitted to you from the Persian Department for the purpose of enabling you to communicate it to His Highness's ministers.

3. With respect to the reports communicated to you by Jeswant Rao Ramchandra of a correspondence having been discovered between Jeswant Rao Holkar and Amrut Rao, I am directed to inform you that no such fact has come to the knowledge of this Government and that the report of the existence of such a correspondence is in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council altogether unfounded.

4. The Governor-General in Council entirely approves your reply to the Minister on that subject.

Letter No. 3.—The enclosure which is a copy of the letter of Mr. Melvill, later Commissioner at Cuttack, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, contains information about the claim of the Rani of Mayurbhanj to the remission of a part of the revenue she had to pay to Government for her Zamindary. That was based upon the abolition of a pilgrim tax collected at Khoonta ghat within her Zamindary by the orders of the British Government. The loss of revenue she thus suffered entitled her to the claim.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM,

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 25th January 1808.

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to transmit to you the enclosed copy of an extract from the proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department and to desire that you will ascertain and report the information required in it.

Extracts from the proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department.

TO—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, respecting certain claims preferred by the Rani of Moharbhanj.

2. The subject of those claims was repeatedly brought before the Commissioners, and Colonel Harcourt, having considered it expedient to refer the enquiry, to the Collector of the Northern division Captain Morgan was accordingly instructed fully to investigate the subject, and to submit a detailed report for consideration.

3. A considerable period elapsed before the report was prepared. Sometime however previous to my leaving Cuttack, the report was transmitted to me, with a request that I would deliver my sentiments on the validity, or otherwise, of those claims, and I immediately gave an opinion decidedly favourable to the justness of the grounds of the demands. Colonel Harcourt I conceive did not agree, in that opinion, as no subsequent measure relative thereto was adopted.

4. I have not a copy of Captain Morgan's report, and could not at this distant period, positively assert that in passing that decision my judgment may not have been influenced by additional evidence obtained from the Cuttack records, or resulting from distinct enquiries but if I had not observed it to be stated by the Board of Revenue that on general consideration of the reports received by the late Commissioners there appears to the Board no reason for recommending any temporary abatement. I certainly trusting to my recollection should have said, that, the matter of the report (I do not mean Captain Morgan's conclusions) would by fair induction lead to the inference which I had drawn, viz., that not only an abatement was necessary, but that a fair claim, or right, to further remuneration was also apparent.

5. The information which I possess on the subject of those claims suggests to me the following case, or statement.

6. Khoontah Ghat is a narrow pass, or defile, through a wild tract of the jungle territory of Moharbhanj; and the only road from Bengal to Cuttack leads and, from time immemorial, has led through Khoontah Ghat, and in this defile, the Chooars, or Jungle inhabitants of Moharbhanj, had the opportunity of greatly annoying pilgrims in going to and returning from the temple of Jagannath.

7. The authority that could afford protection against the annoyance, thought itself entitled to some consequent consideration and the pilgrims to ensure their safety, submitted to the payment of a small tax.

8. The Mahratta Government it is probable had it in their power to have prevented or interrupted any regular collection of that tax; but if they could not at the same time have entirely removed the annoyance, to which pilgrims were exposed such impediment would have operated greatly to the diminution of their own collections at the temple; they appear therefore to have consented to the tax, on condition of the Moharbhanj authority becoming responsible for robberies committed on pilgrims.

9. But whatever were the causes which gave rise or permanency to the circumstance, the fact seems undoubted, that a specific tax on pilgrims passing Khoontah Ghat had long been levied by the Moharbhunj Zamindar.

10. The amount of the tribute chargeable on the Zamindar of Moharbhunj, was formerly about six thousand rupees per annum and the fund raised by the tax at Khoontah Ghat, appears to have been the only resource for defraying that tribute.

11. It would appear that in the year 1207, the Mahratta Government with a view of increasing the amount of the tribute as well as to have certain security for the regular payment thereof, had exacted and that the Rani of Moharbhunj had consented that the former tribute should be commuted for a ten annas share or 10/16th of the collections at Khoontah Ghat.

12. After the death of the late Rajah violent disputes arose in Moharbhunj on the subject of the executive authority, or management of the Zamindary; one party asserting, it ought to be exercised on behalf of an adopted child, the other insisting that the right of management belonged to the Rani or widow of the deceased Zamindar. The adopted child was son to the Keunjur Rajah, a powerful neighbour, and the Rani found herself compelled to make application to the Mahratta Government for military aid, promising to defray the expense of the troops; the assistance was granted, but as the disputes continued a long time, the expense thereby incurred involved the Zamindary considerably in debt to the Mahratta Government.

13. As a mode of liquidating the debt alluded to, the six annas share, viz., the share of the collections at Khoontah Ghat that now remained as the property of the Zamindar, was assigned over to the Government, until the accumulated debt should be paid off and for the purpose of satisfactory adjustment, officers on the parts of the Rani, kept counterparts of the accounts of the collections.

14. This assignment, or mortgage, was given in the year 1208, and nearly three years afterwards, viz., a short period previous to September 1803, when our forces compelled the enemy to evacuate the Cuttack province, the Ghat was still in charge of the Maratha officers but it is alleged, and on good grounds that the debt was then liquidated, and that the accounts were under adjustment, and that possession of the six annas share was about to be restored to the Moharbhunj authority.

15. If the foregoing statement is correct, it will follow that by annulling, or prohibiting the tax at Khoontah Ghat, the tribute demandable from Moharbhunj becomes absorbed in the revenue of the temple, and that the Zamindar has a claim on the same revenue, for an annual allowance of sum equal to the balance

between 6/16 of the average amount of former gross annual collections at Khoontah, and the total of the annual charge of collecting the tax, the amount of such balance will perhaps be found to be from eight to ten thousand rupees per annum.

16. In adjusting an account of this kind however, it will be requisite to attend to the separate demand on Moharbhunj for a thousand rupees per annum, as stated in the sunnud dated 1st of Zehijah 1207 Amli.

17. The third paragraph of the letter from the Board of Revenue dated 28th ultimo, the letter of the Cuttack Collector dated the 15th of the same month, and the sunnud of Rajah of Berar will be found to contain evidence in support of the case, which I have made out, and should I have at all analyzed the claim, further proof to bear directly on any doubtful points, may easily be collected.

18. The Rani at the time of the conquest, was considered by the Governor-General, as possessing the Zamindary authority in Moharbhunj, and even if the circumstances mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the letter of the Board of Revenue should be admitted whether those occurrences should be accounted temporarily misfortunes suffered by the Zamindar or be considered events involving just bars to rights founded on ancient possession, Government will easily determine, but as I was a party, to the assurances given to the Zamindars, it may be right to mention that the assurances were general, that the change of Government, might operate to their benefit but never could to their injury.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Dacca :
The 20th May 1807.

J. MELVILL,
Late Commissioner, Cuttack.

Extract of a letter to the Board of Revenue, dated the 28th May 1807.

* * * *

13. On consideration of the circumstances stated by Mr. Melvill the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the Rani of Moharbhunj has a substantial claim to a compensation equivalent to the actual net collections received by her from pilgrims resorting to Jagannath, under the authority of the late Maratha Government. The Governor-General in Council accordingly desires, that you will take into your consideration the amount of the compensation, which should be allowed to the Rani, on

that principle; and that you will state the balance which may be due to her, after debiting her for the balances of land revenue due from her, from the time of the establishment of the British authority in Cuttack. In order to form this adjustment, it will of course be necessary, that you should at the same time, take into your consideration, the amount of the Jumma which should be assessed on the territory of Mohurbhunj, on the principle stated in Section XXXVII Regulation XXII 1805.

14. The Governor-General in Council considers it adviseable that a final arrangement should be made with respect to both those points, as soon as circumstances will permit.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

Having communicated to the Collector of Cuttack your order of the 28th May last, we have the honour to transmit to your Lordship in Council, the enclosed copy of the Collector's reply containing a statement of his proposed adjustment of the demands of the Rani of Moharbhunj.

2. With respect to the amount of the Rani's collections from the pilgrims, passing the Autarrah Nallah we are not aware of any objection to the mode adopted by the Collector for adjusting the compensation payable to the Rani on that account, but with respect to the adjustment of the land revenue we really feel ourselves at a loss to offer an opinion on the subject.

3. From the Collector's letter it would seem that the principle of adjusting the revenue, had been already laid down by the late Commissioners. If that principle therefore is to be adhered to Government instead of having a revenue to receive from the Rani, will have to pay the annual sum of Rs. 4,210. It may possibly have a small sum to receive on account of the Mehal denominated Iogut Golah, but as the Collector states that the sources from which the revenue of that Mahal are derived, are principally of the nature of Sayer Collections, which under the existing regulations, ought to be abolished, we conceive that the Jama to be fixed upon it in future, will be very inconsiderable. In respect to that Mehal however, we must have a further report from the Collector on the subject of the resources of which it is composed.

4. In respect to the quit rent to be received by Government on account of the Moharbhunj territory, the amount proposed by the Collector being Rupees 5,400 per annum certainly appears to us to be very small, when considered with reference to the extent of the territory, and to the resources of it; for among its resources, must be considered, we conceive, the amount of the compensation

to which the proprietor may be considered entitled on account of pilgrims passing the Autarrah Nullah. The Collector states that the Commissioners established it as a rule in regard to the other Rajahs, whose Jama has been fixed at a quit rent, to assess the amount payable by them, at a sum equal to the amount of the Peshcush payable, by them to the Maratha Government, after deducting ten per cent on the amount, although the amount payable by those Rajahs may be much less than what their estates are really capable of yielding. Yet at all events, Government received a revenue from those Rajahs; whereas, in the present instance, in case the adjustment proposed by the Collector be sanctioned, it will have to pay instead of receiving any revenue. Mr. Melvill we observe, states that the collection from the pilgrims were the only resources which enabled the Revenue to pay her Peshcush to the Maratha Government, but on a reference to the former reports on the subject of the territory of Moharbhunj, we observe that the Timber grown on the hills is stated to be a source of great profit to the proprietors besides which as the territory is at great extent, we conceive that nothing is wanting to make it profitable to the proprietor but peace and tranquillity, which it is to be expected will be ensured under the British Government.

We have the honour to be,
etc., etc.

THOMAS GRAHAM,
C. BULLER.

Revenue Board :
The 15th December 1807.

To—SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART, K.B., PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, FORT WILLIAM.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of, dated 9th June last, and its enclosures. The Governor-General in Council having been pleased to consider the Rani of Moharbhunj, entitled to a compensation, equivalent to the actual net collections received by her from the pilgrims resorting to Jagannath, I referred to the accounts of persons passing the Autarrah Nallah Ghat, in the year 1208, 1209 and 1210 as these accounts afford an exact statement of the number of pilgrims, who paying at the Autarrah Nallah Ghat must have paid at Khoontah Ghat. The result is as follows. Soll Iattrees during the 3rd year 14,787 who paying at Khoontah Ghat, at the rate of 1.4 each pilgrim gives rupees 18,484-12-0. Bhurrun pilgrims 27,593 paying at the rate of 6 annas, is rupees 10,347-6-0 or a grand total of rupees 28,831-2-0 which on the average is rupees 9,610-6-0.

The matter respecting Ioogut Golah, is distinct from the collections at Khoontah Ghat. The Golah is still in the possession of the Rani and she has hitherto collected the duties for the mehal, It is for the most part of the description of Sayer and by the existing regulations, should be abolished, but as she has made the collections, Government is entitled to the amount at which she farmed it, as stated in her Sunnud Rupees 1,000 per annum for 1211, 12, 13, 14.

The principle on which the commissioners proceeded in fixing the Jama of Gurjath Rajahs was to allow a deduction of 10 per cent on their peishkush, as ascertained to have been paid by them, to the Maratha Government and as the Jama of Moharbhunj was 6,000 rupees deducting 10 per cent, there remains tribute to Government 5,400 per annum.

I have stated the account on the opposite side by which it appears that there is a balance due to the Rani of 12,841-8-0 from 1211 to 1214 inclusive.

The Mehal Ioogut Golah is totally distinct from the Mohurbhunj territory. It will be necessary to abolish the Sayer Collections, and make the settlement of the Revenue with the Revenue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. WEBBE,

Collector.

Zillah Cuttack,
Revenue Department:
The 30th November 1807.

The Revenue of Moharbhunj.

	Rs.	a.
To peshkush from 1211 to 1214 Amli being 4 years at Rs. 5,400 per annum	21,600	0
To form a Ioogul Golah for at Rs. 1,000 per annum	4,000	0
	25,600	0
To balance compensation to the Revenue ..	12,841	8
Total ..	38,444	8

Zillah Cuttack.

Letter No. 4.—In this letter written to Raghoji the Governor-General explains why his desire for the transfer of either the Cuttack province or Berar cannot be satisfied. This is an enclosure to Edmonstone's letter addressed to Jenkins dated 11th July 1808.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM,

TO—RAJAH RAGHOJI BHONSLA.

Fort William, the 11th July 1808.

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter (recapitulate that received 11th of May) and I have perused the letters which your Highness and your respected Ministers addressed to Mr. Colebrooke. Mr. Elphinstone has also reported to me in detail the communications which he has held with your Ministers on the subjects to which those letters relate.

With a view to evince the sincerity of my regard and to manifest the degree in which your Highness's affairs have engaged my attention and concern, I propose to explain to your Highness in this address my unreserved sentiments on the subjects which you have brought under my consideration, rather than refer your Highness for a knowledge of them to the verbal representations of the Resident.

Previously to my departure from England I was fully informed of all the transactions and negotiations which had passed between your Highness and the British Government, and had perused the correspondence which took place on the subject of your situation between your Highness and the late Governor-General Marquis Cornwallis and Sir George Barlow. I am apprized therefore of the degree of solicitude manifested by those high personages to compensate for the losses which you have sustained by the result of the war to the utmost extent practicable, consistently with a due regard to equity and justice and to the obligations of public faith, and of the exertions which were employed for that purpose.

Being satisfied of your sincere desire to maintain the relations of perfect amity and concord with the British Government I have no hesitation in expressing to you the same solicitude for the improvement of your condition that was manifested by Marquis Cornwallis and Sir George Barlow.

The latter in his address to your Highness of the 24th of March 1806, stated in the most explicit terms and with all the candor of friendship, those measures which this Government precluded from adopting with a view to the improvement of your affairs, by considerations of unquestionable justice and of public faith. I request your Highness to reperuse that letter as containing explanations equally applicable to the circumstances of the present time.

I leave it to your Highness's own judgment to determine whether those explanations are not founded on reason and justice.

But as a proof of my real friendship and regard I will be even more explicit with your Highness and although it becomes necessary for that purpose, to refer to past events, I request your Highness to be assured that it is far from my intentions to offend your feelings or to revive the memory of those differences which have happily been succeeded by the restoration of cordial harmony and friendship between the two states.

In your letter to which that of Sir George Barlow above mentioned is a reply, your Highness expressly stated your expectation of the extension of your dominions to their original limits, that is to say the restoration of the provinces of Berar and Cuttack, and the tenor of the conferences which Mr. Elphinstone after his return from the Residency of Nagpur has occasion to hold with your Highness and your Ministers, warrants the supposition that your Highness still entertains a hope that one or both of those provinces may be restored to you. I know too that your Highness adverting to the assurances which you have received from this Government of a desire to compensate your losses to the utmost extent practicable, consistently with equity and public faith has declared your opinion that it was as consistent with equity and public faith to restore either Berar or Cuttack as Sambalpore and Patna.

But a little reflection must, I am satisfied, convince your Highness that such an expectation is unreasonable and that this opinion is founded in error.

The province of Berar by being annexed to the dominion of His Highness the Nizam ceased to be at the disposal of the British Government. That Government is bound by treaty to secure to his Highness the integrity of his dominions. It is evident therefore that consistently with public faith, no measures can be adopted with a view to the restoration of that province.

With respect to Cuttack, the obligations of both of equity and public faith render it impossible to transfer the possession of it to another state. For in the first place the British Government cannot in justice be expected to resign the possession of a territory valuable not merely on account of its produce but in a still greater degree on account of its position and acquired not by the efforts of irregular ambition and aggressive violence, but by the result of a war which that Government was compelled to engage for the defence of its rights and those of its allies and secondly the restoration of the province of Cuttack would not be consistent with the obligations of public faith because the protection of the British Government is pledged to the chiefs and landholders of the province, and it would be a violation of that principle to compel them to place themselves under another dominion after having acquired valuable rights and privileges solemnly declared to be indefeasible.

Your Highness will thus perceive the absolute impossibility of complying with the wishes which you have intimated or of obeying under present circumstances the dictates of my own solicitude to improve the condition of your Highness's affairs. Your Highness will equally perceive the futility of dispatching a confidential agent with a view to the accomplishment of this object. No explanations could add to my knowledge of the circumstances on which your Highness founds your declared hopes and expectations, or augment my desire to fulfil the obligations of the most animated attachment and regard for the interests and prosperity of your Government. I can only lament that the means of gratifying that anxious desire are not at present within my power, and recommend to your Highness to confide in the effects of that disposition when the unceasing vicissitude of affairs may, afford an opportunity of making that return which your Highness, continued adherence to the obligations of mutual friendship will be considered to demand.

For any details which your Highness may require in elucidation of the subject of this address, I beg leave to refer you to the verbal communications of Mr. Jenkins.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Secretary to Government.

To—SHRIDHAR PANDIT.

Written 11th July 1808.

I have been gratified by the receipt of your letter (Recapitulate that received 11th of May).

Mr. Colebrooke has also communicated to me the letter which you addressed to him explaining in detail all the circumstances of the Maharajah's views and situation and stating the intention of His Highness to dispatch you to the Presidency for the purpose of representing them to me in person.

In my reply to the letter which I have received upon the same subject from His Highness, I have judged it consistent with the sincere respect and regard which I entertain for His Highness to communicate my sentiments upon the subject of His Highness's letter and of your address, in the fullest and most unreserved manner. To that reply therefore I refer you for a knowledge of them. But I cannot resist the desire which I feel to express my sense of the zeal and fidelity which you have manifested towards your sovereign in the representations contained in your letter to Mr. Colebrooke which have augmented if possible my conviction of His Highness's sincere attachment to the British Government, and my solicitude to promote the welfare of His Highness's Government by any means within my power.

It is a satisfaction to me to reflect that His Highness's affairs are conducted by a person of your judgment and ability sincerely attached to His Highness's interests and so anxious to maintain and improve the relations of amity and concord so happily established between the two states.

The report which I have received from Mr. Colebrooke of your distinguished qualities, confirms the good opinion which a previous knowledge of your character had impressed upon my mind.

I should have derived the greatest pleasure from a personal meeting with you, but independently of the circumstances which preclude the necessity of your exposing yourself to the fatigue of a journey to the presidency, I should be extremely reluctent to deprive His Highness even for a short time of services of his faithful and confidential ministers.

A true copy

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

To—JESWANT RAO RAMCHANDRA.

Written 11th July 1808.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (Recapitulate that received 11th of May).

The circumstances of your fidelity and attachment to the Maharajah and your long services are well known to me; and it is a peculiar gratification to me to reflect that His Highness's affairs are conducted by Ministers of such ability and integrity and so solicitous to promote the friendship and good understanding which happily subsists between the two states.

Having replied in detail to the letters from His Highness and Shridhar Pandit to which you refer, you will be apprized of my sentiment on the subject to which those letters relate.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 5.—Jenkins reports that Nana Sahib's troops under Ramchandra Wagh had taken the fort of Sambalpore and the Rani had fled away. Captain Roughsedge is requested not to give shelter to her if she comes into British territories.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—CAPTAIN ROUGHSEDGE, COMMANDING, THE RAMGARH BN., HAZARIBAGH.

Nagpur, the 29th November 1808.

I have just been informed by the minister of the Rajah of Berar that the troops of Nana Sahib under Ramchandra Wagh have taken the fort of Sambalpore and are in pursuit of the Rani who has fled, and may attempt to take refuge within the Company's frontier.

By the 8th article of the treaty of Deogaon you will be aware that the Company engage that they will not give aid or countenance to any disaffected relations of Rajahs, Zamindars or other subjects who may fly from or rebel against the Rajah's authority and the Rajah accordingly requires that the Rani may not receive protection in the Company's dominions should she take refuge in them from the pursuit of his brother's troops who will not of course pass their own frontier. Applicable to such a case you will probably receive the orders of Government to whose decision I have referred the above circumstances together with the Rajah's requisition. In the meantime I have been desired to inform you that I have done so, and to request that if the Rani should take refuge from the pursuit of the Rajah's troops, within the districts under your authority, she may either be ordered immediately to quit them, or be detained under your jurisdiction until you may receive the instructions of Government on the subject.

Letter No. 6.—This letter with its enclosure reveals the treachery of Nana Sahib in taking possession of the Fort of Sambalpur that forced Rani of Sambalpur to flee to the shelter of the British.

FROM—CAPTAIN ROUGHSEDGE, COMMANDING THE RAMGARH BATTALION, HAZARIBAGH,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp Chota Nagpur, 20th May 1809.

About the middle of March I had the honour to receive through a messenger sent by Sacoo Gopal from Camp of the Mahratta troops at Sambalpore your letter of the 29th November last; about the same period I also received instructions from the Chief Secretary to correspond with you, when necessary, on the subject of Raighur and that district.

2. The circumstances detailed in the accompanying copies of my letters to Mr. Edmonstone have rendered it unnecessary for me to trouble you hitherto, but I deem it proper to apprize you of the approaching arrival of the Rani Rattan Kuar within the British territories to enable you to carry into effect any instructions which Government may have issued on the subject of obtaining from Nana Sahib or his brother an adequate provision for her future maintenance.

3. My Agent Farzand Ali now with the Rani, states but does not credit a report that the Mahratta troops now in Sambalpore have taken a position for the purpose of intercepting her progress towards my camp. Such a step would be in direct contradiction to the tenor of the letter I have received from Saccoo Gopal and a late communication of Chandajee Bhonsla. I therefore have little apprehension on the subject.

4. I am happy to state that hitherto no interference with the Zamindary of Raigarh has been attempted by the troops of Nana Sahib. Reports of an alarming nature to the Rajah have however been in constant circulation and some time must necessarily elapse before either his neighbours or himself can be convinced of the placable dispositions of the present occupiers of Sambalpur. I have minutely enquired into the conduct of the Rajah of Raigarh and am convinced that Nana Sahib has no just ground of complaint against him since the period of our cession of Sambalpore.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

On the 14th instant I had the honour to receive your letter of the 26th ultimo with its several enclosures but the dispatch from Mr. Jenkins of which a copy has been transmitted to you has ever reached me.

2. From the Rani of Sambalpore a person arrived in my Camp on the 16th instant with an urzee descriptive of the manner in which the Mahrattas obtained possession of her fort, of her own destitute condition and of her hope, though confessedly undeserving, to be once more preserved by our interference and protection.

3. The Sardars of Nana Sahib it appears only a few hours before the fort was attacked had entered into a specific agreement with the Rani, in which the sum to be paid in arrears and the future amount of revenue claimable from her were determined

and the stipulations of both parties were confirmed by oaths of the most binding nature, administered in a Hindu temple within the fort regarded as peculiarly sacred.

4. On the following morning however the troops were attacked by a large force which had crossed the river during the night on rafts, and after some resistance were not only defeated but prevented from regaining the fort. This disaster deprived the Rani of all hope of maintaining her position and she even considered herself fortunate in escaping at midnight and on foot from her treacherous opponents. She took the route of Chota Nagpur and after much fatigue and many privations succeeded in gaining a retreat offered her by a faithful Zamindar among the hills which form the boundary of that district with the Pergunnah of Jespore and Gangpore.

5. In reply I stated to the Rani my belief of the intention of Nana Sahib to provide for her subsistance by the allotment of some portion of land within the province of Sambalpore that he might consider adequate to that purpose, and the disposition of the British Government to urge but not to guarantee the fulfilment of such an arrangement if it met with her acquiesence; that possibly the treachery of which she accused the Mahrattas had only for its object the possession of the fort, and the consequent more easy subjection of its dependencies and would have been followed up, had she fallen into their hands by an offer of the provision alluded to; that she however was the best judge of their disposition towards her and perfectly capable of appreciating the value of their offers and it was with peculiar pleasure I obeyed the benevolent orders of my Government in offering to her choice an alternative to this proposal which consisted of a reasonable provision for her future maintenance under the protection and within the territories of the Hon'ble Company, the permanency of which would depend on her faithful adherence to a promise of wholly relinquishing all concern and interference in Sambalpore and abstaining from every kind of communication of a political nature with its Zamindars or other inhabitants.

6. I concluded with a request for her early reply and an assurance that in the event of her continuing to desire the British protection under the stipulated condition, Meer Farzand Ali should be sent to meet her on...................................and means immediately taken to....................................with all necessary accommodation.

7. This person, as is stated in a letter of mine of Mr. Secretary Dowdeswell, is at present employed on a mission to Singhbhoom essentially to the execution of my orders in his.......................but I expect his return in a short time on account of the communications and arrangements which may become requisite, with

the..of the Mahratta troops with the..................................of Raigarh and the Rani of Sambalpore. I hope to be indulged with permission to.......................myself of his services and to compensation by the salary he formerly enjoyed of..........................a month during the time he shall be employed on the public duty.

8. I am much ashamed of the negligence with which I have hitherto omitted to transmit you this person's receipt for 1,000 Rupees...........................to him on account of his salary from 1st of January to the 1st of December 1807 and not included in the public accounts of my mission to Sambalpore when they were sent in. Indeed I did not conceive that his services would be longer necessary but sickness forcing me to quit Cuttack and the Ranee refusing to release me from a promise, which with the sanction of Government I had entered into of remaining with her until in settled possession of her lands unless Farzand Ali was continued in attendance on her, I was compelled to leave him behind. She did not obtain her Jagheer until the latter end of the rainy season and would not dispense with his advice and presence until the 25th of October, when with the party of Sepoys that had been granted to her he returned direct to Hazaribagh and received from me as I trust it will appear, reasonably, the arrears of his salary to the day of his arrival the 30th November 1807.

9. Under this explanation I presume to hope for the sanction of His Lordship in Council to the payment of the inclosed bills; the disbursement of 50 Rupees was occasioned by the dispatch of the Governor-General's letters last year to the Rajah of Raigarh and by other casual employment in the political department of the same person.

10. This reported that the most flattering offer of favour and protection has been made by the Mahratta Officers to the Rajah of Raigarh on the part of Nana Sahib who, they do not scruple to assert it, is particularly interested in his welfare. The Rajah however with a too well founded distrust has quitted from his residence for the mountains. ....to inform me if it is the intention of the Government that I should protest, for without the Mahratta districts I cannot oppose any attempt they may make upon his...................................or any movements they may adopt of............................alarming nature so as to oblige him and...................................continue in the hills and spread confusion in his Zamindari.

Camp Nagpur (Chota Nagpur) :
21st January 1809.

E. ROUGHSEDGE,
Commanding Ramgarh Battalion.

Letter No. 7.—The letter and its enclosure are important. Roughsedge points out in the enclosure in what destitution the Rani had arrived in his camp, seeking shelter of the British Government against Nana Sahib.

FROM—CAPTAIN E. ROUGHSEDGE, COMMANDING THE RAMGARH BATTALION,

To—RICHARD JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp Chota Nagpur, 4th June 1809

From the accompanying copy of my letter to the Chief Secretary you will perceive that the Rani Rattan Kuar of Sambalpore has safely arrived in this district.

2. At her request I do myself the honour to invite your interference if it can with propriety be exerted in favour of the son of a very old servant of the Rani named Dinbandhu Padhan. He is at present confined in the fort though I believe without any serious cause and it is much desired that he should be permitted to quit Sambalpore and join his father who has followed the fortunes of his Mistress.

3. If without inconvenience any account could be obtained of the present situation of Rajah Jeyte Singh and Maharaje Singh who have been so many years confined in the fort of Chanda the Rani would derive much consolation in her misfortunes, from acknowledgment of their welfare.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

I had the honour to address you on the 19th ultimo and have now to submit for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council the arrival of the Rani of Sambalpore in the neighbourhood of my camp.

2. Her situation, my agent Farzand Ali reports, to have been most critical, the troops of Nana Sahib having discovered the place of her retreat and adopted measures for her seizure which could not long have failed of success. They made no attempt to intercept her progress towards Nagpur however and her journey was completed without accident or opposition.

3. The destitute situation in which she has sought the protection of the British Government and the advanced period of the season have obliged me to make arrangements for her accommodation in this district during the rains but I trust I shall be honoured with the orders of His Lordship in Council as to the extent of her future provision and support before the detachment under my command quit Nagpur.

4. I paid the Rani a visit yesterday evening and could not view the contrast presented by what I saw at our former interviews, without a most levied compassion for her misfortunes and a desirable to forger how justly they are to be attributed to her folly alone. She appeared to feel the most sincere gratitude for the generous protection that had been extended to her and expressed her entire devotion to the pleasure of Government.

5. I have found it necessary to advance to her a few hundred Rupees in addition to the sum mentioned in my last letter.

Camp Nagpur (Chota Nagpur): E. ROUGHSEDGE,
3rd June 1809. Commanding Ramgarh Battalion.

Letter No. 8.—The letter along with its enclosure is important. In the letter the Chief Secretary points out the grounds on which Nana Sahib's insistence on the surrender of the Rani should be resisted. In the enclosure Captain Roughsedge narrates the circumstances that led to the flight of the Rani to the shelter of the British. The treachery of Nana Sahib's officers is brought out.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To—RICHARD JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 26th June 1809.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 9 to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council dated the 27th ultimo reporting the substance of your discussions with Jeswant Rao Ramchandra on the subject of the Rani of Sambalpore.

2. The arguments which you employed to resist the demand for the surrender of the Rani are considered by the Governor-General in Council to have been perfectly correct, solid and judicious and have little room for any additional observation what they support the equity............................ Resolution of Government to withhold a compliance with Nana Sahib's unreasonable demand.

3. It is not asserted on the part of Nana Sahib that the asylum afforded to the Rani precludes the recovery of any rights required by the cession of Sambalpore, or of any revenue due

by ....in her capacity of Zamindar nor is she accused of.....................which according to the.....................of civilized nations required her surrender as the criminal to the justice of his country. If the statement contained in the enclosed extract from Captain Roughsedge's dispatch of the 21st of January be correct, the Rani has too much reason to complain of the grossest treachery on the part of Nana Sahib's officers. His object is to gain possession of her person with the view to place her in a condition of restraint which may deprive her of the means of resisting or exciting resistance to his authority. If secure from any such attempts Nana Sahib can have no motive to desire the surrender of her person, unless it be a motive of revenge. His solicitude therefore on this subject is in fact founded on a mistrust of the assurances of the British Government, which has engaged to prevent such attempts on her part, and has rendered the continuance of its protection conditional on her abstaining from them.

4. The solidity of her plea cannot of course be admitted and the obligation of humanity and justice...............................us to surrender, this unhappy fugitive, a victim to the motives of revenge.

5. The case the Rani of Sambalpore cannot afford encouragement to other.....................to seek an asylum within the British territories until reduced to the same condition of.............................and it certainly is not for the interest of the British Government to encourage their........................... She has not exchanged the possession of her Zamindary for a bare subsistence within the Company's provinces, but she has fled from the forts of violence and treachery which expelled her from her lands and from her habitation, and rendered her a wanderer in the wilderness. Others must be reduced to the same distress and danger before they resort to the same protection.

6. It may further be observed that Nana Sahib can with still less justice claim the surrender of the Rani when he himself has uniformly resisted every application for the release of her son and husband whom he retains in vigorous confinement and whose enlargement would probably have secured to him the peaceable possession of the province.

7. You will of course continue to resist the demand for her surrender on the same grounds on which you have hitherto opposed it, adding to your representations on the subject, the sanction and commands of the Governor-General in Council and a repetition of the assurances which you have already afforded, that she will neither be encouraged nor permitted to prosecution ....measures calculated to obstruct the establishment of Nana Sahib's authority in the district of Sambalpore.

Extract from a letter from Captain **Roughsedge** *to the Secretary to the Government in the Secret, Political and Foreign Department under date the* 21*st January* 1809.

From the Rani of Sambalpore a person arrived in my camp on the 16th instant with an Arzee descriptive of the manner in which the Mahrattas obtained possession of her fort, of her own destitute condition, and of her hope, though confessedly undeserving to be once more preserved by our interference and protection.

* * * *

3. The Sirdars of Nana Sahib it appears only a few hours before the Fort was attacked, had entered into a specific agreement with the Rani, in which the sum to be paid in arrear and the future amount of Revenue claimable from her were determined and the stipulation of both parties were confirmed by oaths of the most binding nature administered in a Hindu temple within the fort regarded peculiarly sacred.

4. On the following morning however her troops were attacked by a large force which had crossed the river during the night by rafts and after some resistance not only defeated but prevented from regaining the fort. This disaster deprived the Rani of all hope of maintaining her position and she even considered herself fortunate in escaping at midnight and on foot from her treacherous opponents. She took the route of Chota Nagpur and after much fatigue and many privations succeeded in gaining a retreat offered her by a faithful Zamindar, amongst the hills which form the boundary of that district with the pergunnahs of Jespore and Gangpore.

5. In reply I stated to the Rani my belief of the intention of Nana Sahib to provide for her subsistence by the allotment of some portion of land within the province of Sambalpore, that he might consider adequate to that purpose, and the disposition of the British Government to urge but not to guarantee, the fulfilment of such an arrangement if it met with her acquiescence; that possibly the treachery of which she accused the Mahrattas had only for its object the possession of the fort and the consequent easy subjection of its dependencies and would have been followed up, had she fallen into their hands by an offer of a provision alluded to; that she however was the best judge of their disposition towards..............................and perfectly capable of appreciating the value of their offers; and it was with peculiar pleasure I obeyed the benevolent orders of my Government in offering to her choice an alternative to this proposal which consisted of a reasonable provision for her future maintenance, under the protection and within the territories of the Hon'ble Company, the permanency of which would depend on her faithful adherence to a promise of wholly relinquishing all concern and interference in Sambalpore, and abstaining from every kind of communication of a political nature with its Zamindars or other inhabitants.

6. I concluded with a request for her early reply and an assurance that in the event of her continuing to desire the British Protection, under the stipulated condition, Meer Farzand Ali should be sent to meet her on the frontier, and means immediately taken to provide her with all necessary accommodation.

A true extract.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 9.—Roughsedge writes about certain border disputes about some villages, which had been claimed by Nana Sahib Bhonsla's officers at Sambalpore and plundered by them.

FROM—CAPTAIN E. ROUGHSEDGE, COMMANDING THE RAMGARH BATTALION.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hazaribagh, the 24th February 1810.

I had the honour to address you on the 4th ultimo and beg leave now to enclose a translation of an Arzee received within these few days from Rajah Joujar Singh of Raigarh, I cannot suppose it possible that Chandajee Bhonsla will presume to make a serious attack on that Zamindari, but the menacing positions he has caused to be occupied are in violation of the spirit of the engagements of Nana Sahib, and have a very injurious effect upon the interests of Joujar Singh whose Muctears inform me that their master had deemed it advisable to send his wives and family to the mountains, a circumstance naturally productive of the greatest alarm throughout the whole pergunnah.

2. Although the measures alluded to in the 5th paragraph of my letter of the 2nd January (the relinquishment of the Pergunnah of Padampore) has already been adopted by Rajah Joujar Singh, it does not appear to have been attended with the desired effect; for, from the papers I enclose it would seem that a fresh demand has been set up by Chandajee Bhonsla of certain villages in Raigarh alleged to have been formerly dependant on Chandarpore, in Sambalpore Khass. I have little hesitation however in pronouncing this alarm to be groundless, a minute examination of the ancient boundaries of the two districts having been entered into in the year 1805 by Colonel Broughton who for that and other purposes made a tour throughout the province.

3. Seven villages, as Rajah Joujar Singh very truly asserts, appearing to have been erroneously annexed to Raigarh were at

that period restored to Chanderpore, and the Rani of Sambalpore, who was the only person interested, declared herself satisfied that no further claims existed against that Pergunnah.

4. However this may be, it is evident that any demand against the territory of Raigarh ought in the first instance to have been made on the part of Nana Sahib through you to the British Government, and that Chandajee Bhonsla, in calling upon Rajah Joujar Singh to surrender a part of his country and supporting this demand by the assembling of troops in menacing positions and other demonstrations of hostility, has violated the engagements of Nana Sahib respecting that Pergunnah and brought very serious inconvenience and distress on its inhabitants.

5. Khajee Baber a servant of Chandajee Bhonsla brought to me about a month since a duplicate of your letter of the 3rd of December, and a verbal message respecting the pergunnah of Boad which his master was desirous of considering as a dependency of Sambalpore and consequently included in the cession of that province to Nana Sahib. For this purpose, the man in question informed me that he had been sent with a letter to the Magistrate of Cuttack, who after some months' attendance dismissed him with a verbal authority to take possession, which Chandajee Bhonsla had only been prevented from doing by a former remonstrance of mine on the subject.

6. My reply to that officer cautioned him against interfering with the pergunnah of Boad, which as you will perceive on a reference to the schedules enclosed in my dispatch of the 14th of June 1806 to the Hon'ble Mr. Elphinstone is not included in the cession of territory to the Rajah of Berar, and indeed was omitted on account of its local importance as the key into Cuttack, which was previously submitted to Government.

7. Since I began this letter a report has arrived that troops of Chandajee Bhonsla have actually plundered several villages in Raigarh. I do not feel inclined to give credit to it, but allow me to request that Nana Sahib may be invited to issue strict orders to his officers in Sambalpore to refrain from all menacing steps, and indeed desist from all direct communication with Rajah Joujar Singh with whom they cannot be expected to agree on any subject.

Letter No. 10.—The designation of the writer is not given but he must be an officer of the British Army at Hazaribag, who might have taken the place of Captain Roughsedge. The letter is addressed most probably to Jenkins. Higgot refers to the dispute between the Marathas and Rajah Joujhar Singh of Raigarh. He gives his own opinion of the conduct of Joujhar Singh. The enclosure certified by Captain

Roughsedge is an application from Joujhar Singh for British assistance against the unprovoked attack of the Marathas on his territory.

FROM—R. HIGGOT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hazaribagh, the 1st December 1811.

I have the pleasure to forward, a copy of a letter received from Chandrabhan Bhonsla of Sambalpore, of my reply to the same, and of a Parwana I ventured to address to Rajah Joujar Singh, which I trust may meet your approbation.

I am by no means authorized to interfere in the disputes between the Marahattas and Joujar Singh, having received the express orders of Government to refer all persons making applications to me of a political nature, connected with the affairs of the state of Nagpur to you.

My orders to the above effect were dated the 12th July last, and I availed myself of the earliest opportunity that offered of making them known to the Bhonsla. I conclude however from his continuing to address me, this information could not have reached him prior to the dispatch of his last reference.

In giving the advice I have done to Joujar Singh I trust you will not think me culpable; from a personal acquaintance with him, and from his former good conduct, I must confess myself somewhat interested in his welfare. The charges preferred against him by the Bhonsla are very serious. I trust however that on investigation he will appear in a less criminal light than he does at present.

I had the pleasure to forward a large supply of wines, etc., for you by Hazareebagh people on the 7th of last month. I trust they will reach you in safety.

(No address given, but seems to be written to the Resident at Nagpur).

Translation of a letter from Rajah Joujar Singh, Jagirdar of Raigarh, written on the 7th of May.

After compliments.

The state of things here you will be informed of by my former letters. I have now to mention that although the Mahrattas have received from me the Malguzari for Padampore, they have set up a Thanna there and called upon me to give up the estate. It was your former instruction to me to relinquish this place whenever required to do so by the Mahrattas. I have therefore obeyed your orders and their Thanna is now in their possession. Of late however a further demand has been made upon me of certain villages to have belonged to Chandrapore; but Sir when Colonel Broughton and you came to Raigarh, the 7 villages in possession belonging to that Estate (as you must remember) were given up and I have never since interfered with them; the Mahrattas therefore now unjustly, and violently, claim the village of Raigarh, and pay no attention to my remonstrances, being apparently determined upon resorting to........................your orders to me are to remain quietly in my fort, and to these I am paying punctual obedience, with hope of your speedy attention to situation. Raigarh is entirely surrounded by Mahrattas, though belonging to you, therefore it is necessary to take immediate measures for assistance. Chandajee Bhonsla, Tantia Sirdar, and Kashee Ram Killadar are at Sambalpore, with a force of 4 or 5000 Horse and foot. 6 or 700 men are encamped at Adharli, (about 10 Coss from Raigarh) which it is necessary for you to be acquainted with.

After writing this Arzee I learn that the Mahratta standard is raised at Doorgoo Pallee (4 Coss from Raigarh) and that the troops at Sambalpore and Adharli (abovementioned) are to join it in a combined attack on Raigarh. They say they will ruin me in whatever way it may be practicable although I have committed no kind of offence against them, and have obeyed your orders in every part of my conduct. They are determined upon quarrelling with me, and I hope you will pay speedy attention to my request of assistance.

A true translation.

E. ROUGHSEDGE, Captain.

डॉ. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार,
ग्रंथ संग्रह

PINDARIES

Letter No. 1.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla was very much worried about the depredations of the Pindaries. The activities of the Pindaries were due to the fact that Bhonsla's troops on his north-western frontier had killed the adopted son of Chitoo. Further he reports that Nana Saheb was "very jealous of any interference on the part of the Rajah in the measure he wishes to adopt for the occupation of the ceded provinces" i.e., of Sambalpore, etc.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Nagpur, the 21st February 1807.

In my last dispatch I had the honour to acquaint you of the Rajah's expedition to Ramtek. His Highness returned from thence on the 9th instant.

It was my original intention to have taken an early opportunity of renewing the subject of Sambalpore in order either to induce His Highness to adopt some decisive measure for the occupation of that province upon some one of Mr. Elphinstone's propositions, or to promote an entire relinquishment of the question. Since his return however the Rajah has been so much employed in dispatching the arrangements of his internal administration, with the view of securing a total remission from business during the approaching marriage of his daughter and indeed in adjusting the preparations for the marriage, that I have not had it in my power to execute my intentions. In the midst of his other avocations the Rajah is at present much pressed with regard to the Pindaries who have recommenced their depredations on the North-Western frontier, the conduct of some of the Rajah's troops having given them a good pretence for their inroads in attacking and killing an adopted son of Seetoo at Singhpore, a place formerly given by the Rajah to that Chief. A skirmish has since taken place between a party of these plunderers and the Rajah's troops on the Wardha in which the latter have lost several horses, elephants and camels. The Rajah is consequently too much taken up with proceeding for the defence of his own country to carry into execution any plan for sending troops to another quarter.

It appears on the other hand that Nana Sahib is very jealous of any interference on the part of the Rajah in the measure he wishes to adopt for the occupation of the ceded provinces. Keshoo Govind has accordingly been again sent with about 400 Infantry and 4 Guns, and I hear has arrived at Raipore, where a negotiation has been opened with the Ranee of Sambalpore. This circumstance seems to indicate that Nana Sahib is willing if possible to obtain possession of the districts without being obliged either to his brother or to the British Government, and at all events, I am convinced that the Rajah has scarcely a voice in approving or rejecting the propositions which have been made to him on the subject. If Nana Sahib should still fail in obtaining Sambalpore by his own plans, and I understand the Zamindars entertain a great horror of his treachery and cruelty, he will probably again hope for the Rajah's assistance, and in that case the Rajah may hereafter wish to profit by the mediation which has been offered under your authority.

Letter No. 2.—Jenkins reports the depredations of the Pindaries within 20 koss of Nagpur, and occupation of Seoni by the Rajah's troops and that the Army from Chouragarh had crossed the Nerbudda for co-operating with Sindhia's army in the occupation of Bhopal.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Nagpur, the 26th June 1807.

An incursion of the Pindaries into the Raja's country to the north-west of Nagpur, in which those freebooters penetrated to within about 20 coss of the capital, has been almost the only event that has occurred since the date of my last dispatch. The movements of Ganpat Rao's army to Shahpore enabled them to get in his rear, and in their progress they plundered and murdered a respectable person of Balla Sahib's family, who was celebrating a marriage at his native village. The party returned along the Wardha to the hills and regained their main body on the Nerbudda, notwithstanding several strong parties both from hence and Ganpat Rao's camp detached in pursuit.

The Raja's troops are now in possession of Seoni but no operations have been yet commenced against Hoshangabad, although I am informed by the Ministers that it is the intention to attack that fort. Wazeer Mohammed Khan is said to be now in Raissin, and Hoshangabad to be garrisoned by only 7 or 800 Pathans. Neither of the Raja's armies on the frontier have received orders to canton, although the rainy season is now advancing. The army from the vicinity of Chouragarh has crossed the Nerbudda, and is said to be intended to co-operate with Sindhia's troops in taking possession of the Bhopal territories.

Two grand exhibitions of fireworks have lately taken place at Nagpur in honour of the marriage of His Highness's daughter to each of which I was invited, and on both occasions I found the Raja in high spirits and good humour. I have also received a visit of ceremony from Shridhar Pandit, at which I, of course. presented him and the persons who accompanied him with the usual dresses. I returned the Minister's visit a few days ago, and was received with great attention. At both interviews Shridhar Pandit was very profuse in his professions of attachment to the British Government.

Nana Sahib has been long anxious to visit Chanda, and has only been persuaded to delay his journey to witness the completion of the marriage ceremonies and entertainments. He continues very unwell, but the day of his departure is not fixed. Mohammed Meer Khan departed some time ago to Sindhia's Camp by the route of Burhanpur.

Letter No. 3.—Jenkins reports about the depredations of the Pindaries in Chhatisgarh and round about Nagpur. Incidentally he mentions that people went to Benares via Ratanpur.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL DOVETON, COMMANDING IN BERAR.

Nagpur, the 31st March 1809.

You will have heard of a body of Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda, and proceeded towards Garah Mandla and Chhattisgarh. At Gadarwara they completely plundered one of the Rajah's Camps carrying away above 400 horses and a large quantity of baggage. They made a hard push to overtake a large body of pilgrims proceeding by Ratanpore to Benares, but having failed in overtaking them, they are now returned in number of about 2,500 to the neighbourhood of Rampaili a place forty coss north-east of Nagpur. As that part of the country has not been often molested, they are collecting great plunder, and it is supposed to be their intention to take a circuit to the south of Nagpur which would bring them near the Wardha. I think it necessary therefore to let you know where they now are, and I shall write you any further intelligence I may receive of their movements. The Rajah has at present no troops out after them, but is taking great, and more than usual precautions for the safety of the city.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 17th March and am much obliged for the statement of Holkar's force it contains. There is a report today that Mahipat Ram has appeared in the neighbourhood of Burhanpur, but accounts from Amraoti mention the Pindaries to have come down there in large numbers.

P.S.—I have given intimation to the Nawab Salabat Khan of the present situation of the Pindaries.

Letter No. 4.—The letter gives the whereabouts of Meer Khan and his troops, and points out that Meer Khan wanted to canton his troops in Garha Mandla during the rains.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL DOVETON, COMMANDING IN BERAR.

Nagpur, the 5th July 1809.

I have had the pleasure of receiving yours dated the 14th ultimo.

Since that period Meer Khan who was between Bhopal and Bhelsa, accompanied by Vazir Mohammed Khan, moved on Chynpore Bari which he summoned to surrender. This was refused and a slight skirmish took place, after which he marched to his present position between the villages of Bamhni and Chownepara in the northern bank of the Nerbudda, not far from Chouragarh. From this place parties of horse continually crossed that river, which owing the scarcity of rain is still fordable in every direction, and plunder the Rajah's country as far as Seoni-Chapara, whilst other parties make incursions into Garah Mandla, the Deobe (Doab) and Saugor countries. The most general report regarding his immediate intentions is that he will canton his troops in Garah Mandla during the rains, at the same time prosecuting his views of raising money from Saugor which lately paid tribute to Sindhia co-operating with Bhopal in recovering the places he has lost to the northward of the Nerbudda, which he cannot however very effectually do until his battalions and guns join him. The Rajah's force which was at Chynpore Baree has re-crossed the Nerbudda and is now encamped at Sohagpore. Five or six thousand Infantry are left to defend the forts of Baree and Chouragarh. The latter is a hill fort pretty strong, but taken even by the Rajah's troops in 16 days; the former is a large place, its principal defence being a river which almost encircles it and which is so dammed up as to render it unfordable in all parts of the year. The Rajah has a considerable force in Garha Mandla which with that at Sohagpur comprizing his whole force in the field Sadik Ali Khan has set out to join the latter with Treasure and a small reinforcement, but although the Rajah has lately shown some disposition to act vigorously, the devastation which his territories do and must suffer, and the almost certainty that his troops will not fight will probably lead him to satisfy Meer Khan's demand.

Letter No. 5.—The letter with its enclosures conveys the determination of the British Government to expel Meer Khan from Bhonsla's territories if the former does not listen to the remonstrances of the Governor-General.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, 16th October 1809.

The Governor General has had under his consideration your successive reports regarding the proceedings and views of Meer Khan which in His Lordship's decided judgment require to be arrested by the most active and vigorous measures. His Lordship's sentiments and resolutions on this subject will be made known to you by the enclosed copy of my private letter of yesterday's date to Captain Sydenham.

A reply to your dispatches together with the necessary instructions will be prepared and transmitted to you with the least practicable delay; in the mean time as it may be of importance that you should be apprized of the measures in agitation to repress the progress of Meer Khan's ambitions and dangerous designs, I am directed to convey to you this private intimation.

A letter to the Rajah apprizing him of the resolution of the British Government to protect or restore his dominion by the expulsion of Meer Khan, if the remonstrances which the Governor General has addressed to him should be disregarded is preparing but without awaiting the receipt either of that letter or your official instructions, it will be advisable that you should communicate to the Rajah the measures now in progress for his relief and you will of course make this communication to him in the manner calculated to produce the most favourable impression upon his mind.

The knowledge of our intention may be expected to invigorate the Rajah's counsels and to encourage his exertions for his own defence (if not too late), until relieved and supported by the advance of the field force under Colonel Close with whom you will now of course directly correspond, and to whose suggestions with regard to any arrangements in the power of the Rajah to adopt in aid of the common cause, you will be careful to attend.

For your further information I also enclose an extract from Captain Sydenham's dispatch to which my private letter refers, describing the force proposed by him and Colonel Close to be employed on this occasion.

TO—CAPTAIN SYDENHAM.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your express dispatch of the 8th instant reached the Presidency this afternoon. The Governor General had at the time under consideration Mr. Jenkin's reports regarding the views and proceedings of Meer Khan and your suggestion respecting the necessity of equipping a force to act eventually against that Chief is only an anticipation of the resolution which His Lordship was prepared to adopt.

His Lordship is decidedly of opinion that it is become indispensably necessary not merely to act on the defensive against Meer Khan, but to oppose his progress to Nagpur or if he should have gained the start of our operations, to drive him out of that country. It is a question not simply whether we shall aid the Bhonsla, but whether we shall suffer another Mussalman power of considerable magnitude, great activity, and unbounded ambition to establish in India and on the most vulnerable point of our political interests. On such a question there can be no doubt.

The plan for the formation of a field force which you have proposed in concert with Colonel Close has His Lordship's entire approbation and the necessary orders and instructions for carrying it into effect will be issued without delay. In the mean time I am directed to convey to you this earliest intimation of His Lordship's resolution that any measures and arrangements which you and Colonel Close can adopt to expedite the formation of the intended field force, without awaiting the receipt of official authority for that purpose may be pursued.

The Governor General is fully sensible of the benefit which the public service would derive from the exercise of Colonel Close's distinguished talents, abilities, judgment and experience in this conjuncture, is extremely anxious that he should assume the personal direction of all the military operations to be undertaken and His Lordship proposes accordingly to vest the Colonel with the entire command of all the forces at Hyderabad, at Seroor and on their march to the former. Major General Champagne who holds the temporary command of the Poona Subsidiary force, will according to an arrangement some time since adopted be relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Montresor who will proceed to join that force with the utmost practicable expedition and act under Colonel Close's orders.

His Lordship leaves it to the discretion of Colonel Close to proceed immediately to take the personal command of the Jalna force leaving orders for the other corps to join him.

His Lordship being also highly sensible of the value of Colonel Close's political talents and of the expediency of the union of military and political powers in such a situation further requests that he will accept the............of all political affairs to the northward connected with the objects of the proposed military measures, and it is His Lordship's intention to place Mr. Jenkins under the authority of Colonel Close who will also continue to exercise at present. Your political functions will remain as before, and with respect to any discussions with the Durbar of Hydrabad on points relating to the operation of the field force, you will certainly feel no difficulty in acting in concert with Colonel Close.

I wish to Gooty (?) this evening to desire the body of silledar Horse originally directed to join Lieutenant Colonel Conran to countermarch and resume its original destination.

His Lordship will probably write to the Nizam and the Peshwa on the subject of the proposed service, but you will not of course delay making the necessary communication to the Nizam until the arrival of the letter to His Highness.

The necessity of dispatch will, I trust, appear to Colonel Close a sufficient apology for my not addressing him also at the present moment. The principal object of such an address indeed will be fully answered by your communicating to him this letter.

Regular official instructions to you and to Colonel Close will be prepared with the least practicable delay ; in the meantime you and the Colonel are at liberty to act upon the intimations contained in this letter.

Fort St. George: N. B. EDMONSTONE,
The 15th October 1809. Chief Secretary to Government.

Extract from a letter from the Resident at Hyderabad, dated the 8th October 1809.

19. The system of military operation, to be adopted against such an enemy as Meer Khan, should be similar to that pursued by Sir Arthur Wellesley against the Rebel Dhondia Wagh, and by Major General Smith against Meer Khan himself in Rohilkhand. This system would hold out the prospect of an early and decisive termination of hostilities. Any other system would lead to a protracted warfare, and might admit of Meer Khan's unmolested return across the Nerbudda.

20. Taking therefore into consideration the immediate danger which threaten to disturb the tranquillity of these territories, the policy of being prepared for active operation against the whole force of Meer Khan ; and the particular system of warfare best adopted to bring the contest to an early and favourable termination, I shall take the liberty of suggesting the amount and description of the force to be assembled on the frontier :—

Cavalry.—1 Regiment of Dragoons and 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry with 12 Galloper Guns. The troops of Horse Artillery.

Infantry.—1 Regiment of Europeans and seven Battalions of Native Infantry, with the usual proportion of Field Pieces.

If the situation of affairs in Mysore should admit of such an arrangement, I should venture to propose that from 1,000 to 2,000 of the Sillehdar Horse be ordered in advance with the Regiment of Dragoons. About 3,000 of the Nizam's regular Infantry and 2,000 of the best Horse, under the Nabob Salabat Khan, might be collected to act in conjunction with the British Force. The remainder of the Nizam's Troops would be required to defend the country against the depredations of small bodies of Pindaries and other plunderers.

21. The plan, which I venture to submit to your Lordship's notice, would admit of the formation of a light corps, consisting of Cavalry, Horse Artillery, and the Flank companies of the Infantry, which could act separately from the main body of the force, and would be capable of the most rapid movements.

22. From the measures which are in progress for the relief of the Hydrabad Subsidiary force, an Army of the above description could be collected without difficulty in any part of the Deccan. Of the cavalry the 1st Regiment is at Hyderabad; the 2nd at Seroor; the 4th and 8th at Jalna, and the 7th with Lieutenant Colonel Conran. The Horse Artillery is at Jalna. Of the Infantry there are 3 Battalions at Jalna—2 Battalions at Hydrabad, 1 Regiment of Europeans, and 2 Battalions with Colonel Conran. A Regiment of Dragoons would be required to march from Bangalore. The amount of the force may be estimated at 2,600 Cavalry with 20 guns drawn by Horses and 6,400 Infantry with 16 Field Pieces. That is 10,000 men (?) and 36 pieces of artillery.

Letter No. 6.—The letter is important inasmuch as it conveys the determination of the Governer-General to drive out Meer Khan from any footing in or near the territories of the Bhonsla, and explains that the reasons for this determination were two-fold viz. (i) not to let Meer Khan seek a revival of the Muslim power firstly by carving out a principality for himself from Bhonsla's territories and then by combining with the Nizam against the British, and (ii) to let the Bhonsla have some compensation for the loss of his own territories out of what will be gained by the expulsion and destruction of Meer Khan. The details of military disposition are also outlined.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

TO—R. JENKINS ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, the 18th October 1809.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the dates and number noted in the margin, on the subject of the views and proceedings of Meer Khan and to express to you the high sense which the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entertains of the judgment and political ability manifested in the discussion contained in your dispatch of the 8th of September

2. It is not necessary to enter into a discussion on all the cases of which you have contemplated the possibility. It is sufficient to inform you that your reasoning is generally approved.

3. His Lordship entirely approves the tenor of your letters of the 1st instant to the address of the Resident at Hyderabad and Lieut. Colonel Doveton, copies of which have been transmitted to the Governor-General by the former of these officers. It was obviously necessary under any decision that Government might have formed in consequence of the proceedings of Meer Khan to provide for the security of the frontier of our ally the Nizam, and with reference to that object only it would have been requisite to move forward to the eastern frontier of Berar a considerable force.

4. But considerations of a more extended nature have led the Governor-General to determine to oppose Meer Khan's design of subjugating the territories of the Rajah of Nagpur, and to drive him from the southward of the Nerbudda. Even admitting that the present designs of Meer Khan are not so extensive as those which have been conjecturally ascribed to him, the success of his immediate operations against the state of Nagpur are certainly of a nature to inspire them in the mind of a soldier of fortune, whose power has been gradually and rapidly augmenting whose independance of the state to which he is nominally subject has systematically been accomplished, and whose ambitious disposition, energy of character and military talents, are too well known to warrant a belief that his scheme of aggrandizement will be limited, so long as he shall be left at liberty to mature and extend them.

5. The weak and inefficient condition of every other military power in India (that of the British Government excepted) has afforded an ample field for the prosecution of what appears to be the primary object of Meer Khan's ambition. to become the founder of a new Mussalman power in India. The danger to which the security and tranquillity of the British Empire in India would be exposed by its accomplishment, is too obvious to need illustration, and it would be difficult to imagine a case in which the exertion of our arms could be required upon principles more urgently and strictly defensive.

6. The question therefore to be decided is not simply whether it is just and expedient to aid Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla in the defence or recovery of his dominion, although in point of policy the essential change in the political state of India which would be occasioned by the extension of one of these substantive powers of the Deccan, might warrant and require our interference; but whether an enterprizing and ambitious Musalman Chief at the head of army, irresistible by any power, but that of the Company, should be permitted to establish his authority on the ruins of the Rajah's dominion, over territories contiguous to those of our ally with whom community of religion, combined with local power and resources, might lead to the formation of projects not uncongenial,

it is to be feared to the mind of the Nizam, and certainly consistent with the views and hopes of a powerful party in his dominions, for the subversion of the alliance. Of such a question there can be but one solution.

7. The Governor-General with reference to these considerations has come to the determination to prevent the establishment of Meer Khan's dominion, on the ruin of that of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla. I am accordingly directed to transmit to you the accompanying letter from His Lordship to Meer Khan requiring him to relinquish his designs against the state of Nagpur which you will be pleased to cause to be conveyed to that Chieftain; the letter is accompanied by a copy and translation for your information.

8. As it is probable that Meer Khan may refuse or evade a compliance with the desire expressed in that letter, measures, have been taken to collect an army to enforce it; the army is to consist of one Regiment of His Majesty Light dragoons, a troop of Horse Artillary, five Regiments of Native cavalry, one Regiment of His Majesty's Infantry, and seven Battalions of Native Infantry, with a body of Mysore Silledar Horse. With the exception of the Regiment of European dragoons this force can be furnished from the troops already within the Nizam's dominions and those on their march to Hydrabad under Lieutenant Colonel Conran with the aid of a Regiment of Cavalry from Seroor. But the whole are not expected to be assembled in advance before the 1st of December.

9. Colonel Close is to assume the personal command of this Army and is also vested with powers of Political and Military control on all positions connected with the proposed arrangements. You will accordingly be pleased to attend to all his directions, and to communicate to him all the intelligence in your power, and you will concert with that officer in the means and mode of applying the co-operation of the Rajah of Nagpur in the contest now contemplated, if it can in any way be made useful.

10. A force is to be collected in Bundelkhand as a precautionary measure, and this force will also be subject to the orders of Colonel Close if its cooperation should become expedient.

11. The intention of Government to protect Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla is expressed in the enclosed letter from the Governor-General to His Highness which you will be pleased to present to him; a copy and translation accompany it for your information.

12. The Rajah can hardly expect that we shall adopt those decisions and expensive measures for his protection without a compensation. There cannot therefore be a doubt that he will be deeply impressed with a high sense of the value and disinterestedness of our friendship, when he learns that it is not the intention of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to demand any, either in the way of territorial cession or pecuniary payment.

13. The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General does not consider that the Rajah possesses any claim to our protection still less to such a liberal exercise of it, but is induced notwithstanding to act in this generous manner towards His Highness by two principal motives:—

First.—It must be considered that although our policy operates to the benefit of the Rajah in the high degree inasmuch as it saves him from complete destruction and maintains him in dominion, our measures are produced by a sense of our own interests entirely whatever might be his distress. We should be prohibited from interfering by the established principles of our Government, if the consequences of his destruction were not dangerous to our interests. We could not in truth claim the merit of coming forward exclusively for the Rajah's benefit and though this consideration cannot be supposed to deprive us of the right to require some compensation for assistance so critical and important, the Governor General is of opinion that it is entitled to some weight in dictating a liberal course of policy towards the Rajah.

Second.—The Rajah suffered very severely by the result of war of 1803 more so comparatively in point after recent cessions than either Sindhia or Holkar by the result of their contests with us. We have often expressed our regret for his losses and our readiness to avail ourselves of any favourable opportunity to repair them. The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General is of opinion that the gratuitous support to be at present afforded to His Highness may justly be considered a benefit of such magnitude as to supercede whatever claims could be founded on our conditional promises and in a great degree to meet those pretensions to our favourable consideration which the Rajah has so frequently urged.

14. It is possible also that our military operations may dispossess Meer Khan of his territory of Seronge in which event its annexation to the Rajah's dominions would be a measure of expediency, both as an accession of resources to the Rajah, which will have proved to be politically desirable and as a further demonstration of the sincerity of our desire to compensate to a certain extent for the losses sustained during the last war.

To—MEER KHAN.

Written 16th October 1809.

I have been regularly apprized by the ordinary sources of intelligence of your approach with a large force towards the territories of His Higness Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, of the demands which you have made upon His Highness in the name of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar, and of the negotiations which have taken place on the subject of those demands between His Highness and you. I have also recently been informed of your having actually invaded, and been employed in subjugating His Highness's territory of Garrah Mandla and it is confidently reported that you have resolved to carry your arms across the Nerbudda with a view to the entire conquest of the Rajah's dominions.

I am unwilling to believe that you really entertain this design of endeavouring to subvert, one of the principal states of the Deccan and to establish your own power on its ruins, but the report of a project of such magnitude which is calculated to disturb the established order of things in India and to lay the foundation of anarchy and disorder in the Deccan is a subject of immediate concern to the neighbouring Governments; nor can I tacitly contemplate the approach of a numerous army to the very............ of the territory of an ally of the British Government. Independently even of the requirement of the dominions of a regular state contiguous to those of His Highness the Nizam the expected approach alone of a foreign army to the vicinity of the latter, is an event that requires on the part of His Highness the Nizam and his ally the British Government the adoption of measures of vigilance and security. But when to that is added the apprehension that the object of its approach is the actual subversion of the dominion of one of the substantive powers of the Deccan connected also in the bonds of amity with His Highness the Nizam and the British Government by the obligations of Treaty, it becomes the duty of that Government and its allies to endeavour in the first instance by friendly advice and remonstrance to avert the evils attending such irregular and improper designs, and at the same time to adopt those measures of precaution which the occasion requires.

I cannot admit the plea that you are acting under the orders of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar, because it is impossible to suppose that the Maharajah could either authorize the prosecution of the measures directed to the subjugation of the territories of one of the greatest of the Chiefs of his own tribe or that possessing as he does a sincere desire to maintain the relations of perfect amity and confidence with the British Government and its allies he could sanction a project tending so directly to sow the seeds of doubt and suspicion in their minds and to disturb the foundations of existing harmony and concord. It is indeed well known that you have entirely separated your interests and concerns from those of the Maharajah.

For these reasons I must consider your late measures and your present views as proceeding entirely from yourself. I therefore address myself directly to you and as it is impossible for the British Government and its allies to acquiesce in the prosecution of such designs against the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and as they have consequently taken the resolution to oppose them if unhappily you should persevere in the excess of them, I must express my hope that you will abstain from the prosecution of those designs, and that if you should actually have crossed the Nerbudda you will become sensible that the continuance of your army in that position is incompatible with preservation of confidence and harmony, and will gratify the wishes of the British Government and its allies by immediately withdrawing it, for in a case of this kind the interests of Maharajah Raghojee Bhonsla and those of the British Government and its allies are one and the same.

As the demands that you have made upon Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla are preferred in the name of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar, the British Government and its allies will be disposed to become the medium of their amicable adjustment upon principles of strict equity and justice between those chiefs. The intervention of your power can neither be necessary nor proper.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Chief Secretary to Government.

To—RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA.

Written 16th October 1809.

I have received with sentiments of extreme concern the information of the actual invasion of your territories north of the Nerbudda by the troops of Meer Khan and of his intention of crossing that river in the prosecution of his further violent and unwarrantable designs. Although I trust that your Highness's exertions will succeed in repelling this invasion, yet on the grounds of the subsisting cordial amity between the two states as well as on general principles of proper precaution, I have resolved in concert with the allies to assemble a considerable force on the eastern side of Berar and to oppose the execution of Meer Khan's improper designs or to compell his retreat if he should actually have advanced to the southward of the Nerbudda.

I have accordingly addressed a letter to Meer Khan advising him to abstain from the prosecution of his ambitious projects and apprizing him of the above resolution and a copy of that letter will be communicated to you for your information by Mr. Jenkins to whose verbal representations I beg leave to refer you for further particulars and with whom I request your Highness will communicate on the subject of your.........................if Meer Khan should disregard the admonition contained in my letter.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 7.—The letter mentions that the Pindaries under Meer Khan and Shahamat Khan had crossed the Nerbudda; that skirmishes had taken place between them and Sadik Khan, Bhonsla's Commander had been surrounded; and that Bhonsla's troops had been stationed to encounter them.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Nagpur, the 31st October 1809.

Yesterday morning I received a report that Shahamat Khan with about 1,000 Pathan horse, and some Pindaries had crossed the Nerbudda at Telwarry. I wrote a note to enquire whether the Raja had any intelligence on the subject, to which I received an answer that the Rajah had received reports by a Sawar that some Pindaries had crossed, but no certain accounts.

2. In the evening Jeswant Rao came to visit me, and persisted in the same account, which, he said, he had heard personally from the Rajah, to whom he had immediately shown my note. He informed me that Amrut Rao Bukshi who was encamped beyond Chapara with about 5,000 horse and Infantry and 6 guns, had sent his heavy baggage hither, and proceeded to form a junction with Sadik Ali at or near Sirnugger.

3. I described to Jeswant Rao the accounts which I had heard, and I told him that my object in enquiring was to convey to you the earliest and most correct intelligence which of course would be received by the Rajah's Government; your operations I said would probably be much influenced by intelligence from this quarter. Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah had desired him to assure me that he would communicate any correct accounts which might reach him, as soon as they arrived, and that he expected in the course of the evening to receive more particular reports than the present, of which he would not fail to apprize me.

4. I still continued to hear reports of a large body of horse having passed the river, and even of skirmishes having taken place with Sadik Ali Khan. Between 8 and 9 o'clock p.m. Jaikishan Pandit visited me. He said he had been sent by the Rajah to read to me a letter which had that moment arrived from Sadik Ali Khan. The letter was dated the 17th Ramzan or 27th October and stated in substance, that he had already written accounts of previous occurrences to the Rajah; that the enemy had surrounded him, with his horse; that he had skirmished with them successfully and was then endeavouring to amuse the enemy with negociating on his demands for money until Amrut Rao Bukshee might join his Camp. That the Rajah need be under no alarm for that when the Bukshee arrived, he thought the two forces in conjunction would be more than a match for the enemy.

5. I endeavoured to ascertain from Jaikishan Pandit what might have been the communications to which the letter referred and whether the Rajah knew the number of the enemy which had crossed or the Chief who commanded them, but I could not succeed in drawing particulars from him, whether the Durbar was ashamed to own what would tend to show the insincerity of its former communications which I am inclined to believe is the case, or that particulars had not reached the Rajah. I thought however that I could collect from Jaikishan Pandit's replies, that there was some reason to believe Meer Khan to have crossed the river in person.

6. In speaking of the collective amount of the Rajah's forces to the northward, Jaikishan Pandit allowed that they were under 15,000 men, although they were called 20 or 30 thousand and he said that the Rajah might be able to muster between four and five thousand at Nagpur, including about 2,000 which are all His Highness has with him at Ramtek. There are only four guns with the Rajah at this place, but between 20 and 30 at Nagpur not, however, I am afraid in any complete state of equipment.

7. Since I commenced this dispatch I have heard from some Hircarrahs of my own, and from my news writer at Mundla that Meer Khan has crossed in person, that Shahamat Khan who was encamped at the Telwarry Ghat had refused to obey Meer Khan's orders to proceed in front, and that the force which Meer Khan has brought with him consists of 9,000 Pathan horse and 2,000 Pindaries with 5 guns.

8. I am in momentary expectation of a visit from Jeswant Rao, and I shall not close this dispatch until I can communicate the result of his visit.

P.S.—I have this instant received accounts direct from Meer Khan's Camp on this side of the Nerbudda, by which it appears that he has crossed with about 12,000 horse and 7 guns and is encamped within three coss of Sadik Ali Khan. Jeswant Rao who has just visited me mentioned nothing which it is particularly necessary to add to this dispatch; but pressed the rapid advance of the British troops and if possible, of a small detachment of 2 or three battalions for the immediate aid of the Rajah. I, of course, did not encourage the latter hope, but said generally that you would no doubt be desirous of making every possible haste to relieve the Rajah.

Letter No. 8.—The letter describes the disposition of the Bhonsla towards the British offer of driving out the Pindaries and the movements of the Pindari leaders.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Camp at Ramtek, the 4th November 1809.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of my official dispatch No. 8 of this date to the address of the Right Honourable the Governor-Genral.

2. From its contents you will observe that the Governor-General's letter to the Rajah has not afforded to Hig Highness that complete satisfaction which it was calculated to produce on a mind less distrustful and suspicious and that the confidence with which His Highness appeared to meet my communication of the generous and disinterested intentions of Government, has been somewhat shaken by the circumstance of the assurances which I gave him that the support to be afforded was to be gratuitous, not being expressly mentioned in that letter. As a mere instance of His Highness's suspicious temper, and jealousy of our views, I confess I am not inclined to look on this incident in any light inconsistent with the sentiments which I expressed in my dispatch of the 2nd instant with regard to His Highness's feelings on the subject of our support, if gratuitously granted. With these impressions I made the suggestion to His Highness mentioned in the 10th paragraph of my address to the Governor-General and it seemed to meet His Highness's entire approbation.

3. It has occurred to me that a letter from you to the Rajah communicating your departure from Hyderabad, and the orders which you have received to afford the contemplated support to His Highness against Meer Khan, and mentioning at the same time that this support was to be gratuitous and unconditional, might have the effect of giving immediate confidence to His Highness, by adding the weight of your authority to my representations. I offer this suggestion with due deference to your superior judgment.

4. In my dispatch of the 2nd instant, I had the honour to mention the accounts which had been received of Meer Khan's retrograde movement. I received a note this morning from Jeswant Rao informing me that intelligence had last night reached the Rajah that Meer Khan has recrossed the Nerbudda with all his force, and that the Rajah's two armies had united and were about to move in advance.

5. On this event or the causes of it I will not at present offer any opinion, as well because the intelligence does not seem to be yet entirely authenticated, as that I am not furnished with concomitant facts sufficient to enable me to form any correct or confident judgment.

I have to honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
R. JENKINS,
Acting Resident at Nagpur.

The same as the above to :—

1. Captain Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad, dated 5th November 1809.

Letter No. 9.—Colonel Close intimtaes what he proposes to do in the accomplishment of his task of encountering and expelling Meer Khan and requests Jenkins to procure certain facilities from the Rajah for the British army when it enters his dominions.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, NORTH BANK OF THE GODAVERY, KHAIR.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Khair, the 6th November 1809

I am just honoured with your dispatch of the 24th October, which is so full and satisfactory relative to every subject on which I was desirous of being promptly informed, as to have completely anticipated the objects of my letter dated the 26th ultimo.

As the Rajah has, with cordiality and gratitude, accepted the liberal offer of the British Government, to protect him against the unjust and rapacious projects of Meer Khan, I have but one object for immediate attention, which is, to assemble at Amraoti as soon as possible, the force destined to be employed.

I shall be at Jalna by the 12th instant, and have the prospect of being able to march from thence with the troops of Horse Artillery, 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry and four Battalions of Native Infantry, with a suitable proportion of Artillary in time to reach Amraoti by the 1st December and before that date, I shall probably be joined by His Majesty's 22nd Dragoons and the extra troops of Horse Artillery from the Karnatik. This force accompanied by a select Corps of His Highness the Nizam's Troops, will be strong enough to cross the Wardha and operate in the Rajah's territories immediately against the Enemy for the purpose in view. But a detachment of 1 Regiment of European Infantry and three Native Battalions, is about to march under Lieutenant Colonel Conran from Hydrabad, for Amraoti, by the direct line of Nanded and Basim in order to join me in advance by such concerted movements as the circumstances of the juncture may require. The whole force destined to be employed then, will consist of two troops of Horse Artillery, 1 Regiment of Dragoons, 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry, 1 Regiment of European Infantry and 7 Native Battalions, with upwards of 40 Field pieces. The object of the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan being to prevent that Chief from crossing the Nerbudda, it is extremely desirable that the whole of the Rajah's ingenuity and military resources should be employed to favour its having that effect, until the British Force can be sufficiently advanced to cover the Rajah's territory and particularly Nagpore.

By late dispatch from the Acting Resident at Sindhia's Durbar, it would appear that Balaram Sait was secretly united with the party which obliged Ghuffoor Khan to quit Holkar's Camp. However this may be, a late Akbar from the Northward mentions that a salute was fired in Holkar's Camp, as a demonstration of joy on account of Meer Khan's success at Jubbulpore against the Rajah's troops.

As the service proceeds you will give your attention to the article of supplies. Rice and Chana, are the grains which will be most wanted, and the dealers of the Rajah's territories may be assured of the fullest security and of finding our camp Bazars regulated on the fairest principles. Bunjaries from Nagpur constantly frequent Berar, and I shall be happy to be informed of any proposals which may be received from them, or any engagements they may be brought to conclude for the supply of our troops in the Field. I am not informed whether it is usual with the Rajah to form magazines of provisions for the subsistence of his troops, but if he be prevailed on to store grains at the present juncture at convenient places, you can apprize the Minister, that Rice and Chana are most wanted for the consumption of the British Troops.

I shall keep you regularly informed of my progress, and be much gratified by hearing from you frequently on the service.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
B. CLOSE,
Colonel.

Letter No. 10.—Colonel Close wants to know the real cause of Meer Khan's retreat and intimates that he will arrive at Jalna on 12th November.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Dated the 11th November 1809.

I have to acknowledge your dispatches of the 2nd and 4th instant, the latter accompanied by your address No. 8 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

If Meer Khan has actually recrossed the Nerbudda with his whole force, his retreat must be owing to some cause besides the juncture of the Rajah's troops, under Amrut Rao Bukshee, as he would scarcely have crossed the river in force without knowing the number and description of the troops which the Rajah had in advance to oppose him, and if the Governor-General's letter had previously reached him it would scarcely have occasioned so decided and sudden a change in his proceedings. To ascertain the real circumstances then, which have induced him to retire in such haste seems to be important, as it may, afford a clue to the motives which induce the Rajah to manifest so much suspicion of the uprightfulness of Government, and so little disposition to make you satisfactorily acquainted with the real state of his means and preparations and the particulars of the intelligence which he receives from the frontier.

I shall be happy to learn from you at an early period, how far it may be likely that Bunjaries from the Rajah's territories may be permitted to frequent the British Bazar when the troops arrive in Berar.

I shall be at Jalna tomorrow and from thence address a letter to the Rajah, referring to the particulars which you have lately imparted to him from the Governor-General and intimating my arrival at Jalna, and my intention to march for the vicinity of Amraoti without loss of time.

I would avoid giving him any assurances on the point which had led to his addressing the Governor-General, both because he will probably receive an answer from his Lordship in a short period, and because it is desirable that nothing should occur to afford His Highness the means of inference even, that any of your communications to him can be regarded as requiring confirmation.

Letter No. 11.—The letter conveys information about the movements of Meer Khan, the military disposition of Bhonsla's troops and British troops, and the plans of the British Government to attack Meer Khan.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL MARTINDELL, OFFICER COMMANDING IN BUNDELKHAND.

Camp Ramtek, the 14th November 1809.

I have the honour to transmit for your notice an extract from a letter which I have just received from Colonel Close.

2. You will of course have received instructions from the Government of Bengal on the subject of the service in contemplation to arrest the execution of the designs of Meer Khan against the state of Nagpur, and of the general military and political powers entrusted to Colonel Close in all points connected with that service including the direction of the operations of the British Troops assembled in Bundelkhand, if their employment should become expedient to reduce that power of that Chief.

Previously to the receipt of the Governor-General's letter requiring him to desist from the prosecuting of his ambitious projects in this quarter, Meer Khan had recrossed the Nerbudda; but the Rajah's Commander Sadik Ali Khan prevailed upon him to recross that river under promises of a considerable pecuniary contribution, which however, were entirely deceitful and made with the object of deferring the period of more serious hostilities until the junction of reinforcements from this quarter which has since taken place.

On Meer Khan's return to his encampment in Garrah Mandla he received Governor-General's letter, and I yesterday forwarded to Fort St. George his reply, which he accompanied by a letter to my address. From the contents of the latter document it appears evident that he is not inclined to submit, and he expressly says that if the British Government persists in its interference, he will invade the British territories.

Under these circumstances I am of opinion that your immediate attention should be directed to the objects pointed out in Colonel's (?) dispatch. The first object of course appears to be to advance the force under your command if in a state of preparation for that purpose to such a point as shall at once threaten Meer Khan's rear, and enable you eventually to occupy Seronje, and the other places in his possession in that quarter. The Rajah's Army is now advanced to the Telwarry Ghat with the intention of prosecuting offensive hostilities against Meer Khan, but I do not consider it unlikely that he may endeavour to get into its rear by crossing the Nerbudda at another point, which would enable him to gain the start and if he were active, to fall on Nagpur which would be totally unprotected, at least against such an army as his, and the British forces under Colonel Close are not expected to be in advance before the 1st December.

Meer Khan himself I understand has moved to Palhun on leaving the advance of the Rajah's troops. The object of his movement does not yet appear, but it is reported to be intended to permit the Raja's troops to cross the Nerbudda, and to secure his baggage whilst he falls on the enemy to advantage with his horse. A successful battle would render still more probable the immediate prosecution of his designs against the capital, which would then be completely uncovered. Should you therefore receive intelligence of Meer Khan again crossing the Nerbudda, it would be still more necessary for the British force in Bundelkhand to make immediately such movements and even to undertake such offensive operations as local circumstances may appear to you to render judicious and useful to alarm Meer Khan for his rear and baggage, which he would probably detach in that case to a more northerly position. His family too is represented to be at Shergurh, a fort situated between Seronje and Kotta, and it is reasonable to think that any forward movement of your force might give him apprehensions for their safety.

The Rajah has at present no troops in Garrah Mandla, but he has a force of two or three thousand infantry at Chynpore, towards which place a body of Pindaries are said to be advancing according to agreements with this Government for the purpose of falling on Meer Khan's baggage. The forts of Dhamoonee, Tejgarh and Mandla are still in the Rajah's possession, the former is said to be at present invested by Rajah Murdan Singh of Garrah Kota, the friend and ally of Meer Khan. By every account Beenayuk Rao of Saugor is only sub-servient to Meer Khan from the immediate impression of fear, and he is said to be only waiting for a favourable occasion to manifest his hostile disposition towards that Chief by joining in his expulsion from that quarter.

I shall desire that orders may be sent to any of the Rajah's Commanders of troops or forts which may eventually be in a position to render it necessary or useful, to correspond with you and to pay every attention in their power to your communications for the common benefit.

About the 1st of December Colonel Close expects to be at Amraoti, about 96 miles from hence, with His Majesty's 22nd Dragoons, five regiments of native cavalry, two troops of horse artillery and four battalions of native infantry. The battalions of native infantry and one regiment of European infantry are by this time on their march from Hyderabad to the same place, which will make the army of the Deccan consist of two troops of Horse Artillery, one regiment of Dragoons, five regiments of Native Cavalry, one regiment of European Infantry and seven Native battalions with upwards of 40 Field pieces independently of select corps of the Nizam's and Mysore troops, which are to be attached to the Army.

Letter No. 12.—It is an important letter. Jenkins describes his discussion with Jeswant Rao regarding the intention of the British Government in undertaking a campaign against Meer Khan, the preparation made for it, and the assistance required from the Bhonsla to further the project.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL CLOSE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 16th November 1809.

I have had the honour to receive your letters of the 6th and 8th instant, and should sooner have replied to the former could I have given you any decided information on the subject of Bunjarries and supplies.

2. Immediately on its receipt I set to enquire into the present state of the corn trade of the Rajah's territories and to ascertain the extent to which I might be able to procure engagements from dealers, but from some circumstances which formerly occurred with regard to Bunjarries who were carrying grain to Berar and were in consequence entirely plundered by Nana Sahib, the Bunjaries require security from the Rajah before they can venture to enter into any terms whatever. I had at the same time communicated Meer Khan's letter to my address to the Rajah and intimated to Jeswant Rao that I wished to see him as soon as possible on business.

3. Jeswant Rao did not visit me until yesterday. He then communicated to me the contents of a letter which had been received from Sadik Ali Khan and Amrut Rao Bukshee, mentioning that they had crossed the Nerbudda at the Telburry Ghat on the 13th instant, and that Meer Khan had fallen back about four coss to Pattun and sent his baggage still further in the rear. The Rajah's army had left all its baggage at Sirnagger. The letters represented Meer Khan's retrograde movement as the consequence of fear and signified an intention of shortly attacking him to which Ghatgay was particularly inclined, and threatened to do it with his own small force if his colleagues would not shortly determine upon such a measure.

4. I told Jeswant Rao that I thought Meer Khan had probably other views in declining to oppose the passage of the Nerbudda, since he had before shown that he was not afraid of the Rajah's armies. I hope he would not be able to gain the rear of His Highness's forces by crossing a body of horse at another Ghat, which would be a serious consideration in the event of an unsuccessful battle on the part of Sadik Ali, but of course, I said, Sadik Ali would be aware of any dangers of that sort if they existed.

5. I then mentioned that as an unsuccessful battle might open the way for Meer Khan to the capital, it would be a great point that it should, if possible, be postponed until you should be nearer, and able eventually to cover Nagpur, the plunder of which must be a great object to Meer Khan's hungry troops.

6. Jeswant Rao said that Meer Khan had of course his own plans, and he mentioned that he was in expectation of the early arrival of his battalions from the northward, with which he had about 50 guns, as well as of Kureem's Dhurrah who had agreed to join him. Meer Khan had tried also to induce the Pindaries who were under engagements with the Rajah to unite with him but without effect.

7. Jeswant Rao then alluded to Meer Khan's letter at the contents of which he said the Rajah was surprized, as he could hardly have thought Meer Khan's presumption would have been so great, as not only to refuse compliance with the Governor-General's injunctions but to threaten even the British territories. He asked what would be done.

8. I replied that I had sent a copy of it to you, and had also forwarded one with Meer Khan's reply to the Governor-General, that from Meer Khan's expressions it was still more evident that if his designs on the Rajah had succeeded, they would not have rested there, and there was nothing in it which did not demonstrate the necessity of repressing his irregular and ambitious designs.

9. I then mentioned that it would be proper for the commander of His Highness's troops in advance to open a correspondence with the British officer in Bundelkhand from which

province a force was preparing to co-operate according to circumstances. I thought this a proper occasion for communicating the further liberal intentions of Government to give the Rajah Seronje and other places belonging to Meer Khan in that quarter, should the event of hostilities put them at our disposal, and I remarked that this intention, when known to the Rajah would be an additional proof, were any wanting, of the generous friendship of the Governor-General who wished to extend the Rajah's power and dominions and as His Lordship had before declared, only waited for an occasion in which it could be done upon those principles of justice and honour which always regulated the views and conduct of the British Government.

10. Jeswant Rao said that the intention which I had mentioned was indeed a proof that the promises of the British Government whether they related to immediate or future conjunctures, were never made in vain, and His Highness had always relied upon those which the Governor-General had afforded to him in the confidence that they would be performed. Jeswant Rao added that orders would be sent to Sadik Ali Khan immediately to open a correspondence with the Commander of the British troops in Bundelkhand to whom he would send a Karkoon to keep up a mutual intelligence and to be the medium of communication on points relating to the common cause.

11. I then mentioned that I had heard from you on a subject in which the Rajah might probably have it in his power to contribute considerable benefit to the common cause. I alluded I said to the article of supplies which were a very important consideration in the scale of military operations, and I asked whether the Rajah had any magazines of provisions for the use of his armies. Jeswant Rao replied in the negative, and mentioned that it was not customary with the Rajah to make depots of grain, and that this was not well calculated for them, from the paucity of fortified places. There were generally plenty of Bunjaries who frequented the armies, and brought grain from the surrounding country. The principal Bunjaries he said were inhabitants of Malwa and they only required to be invited to attend in any numbers.

12. I desired Jeswant Rao to suggest to the Rajah that there were two modes in which His Highness might forward the service. The first was to let me have His Highness's Cowle for all Bunjaries who might chose to engage to carry supplies to the British forces from any part of His Highness's dominions, which would remove their present backwardness to enter into terms with me. The second was to establish depots of grain in convenient positions, which would afford still greater facility to the movements of the British troops. I said I need not mention to Jeswant Rao the fair and honourable principles on which the Bazars of British Camps were regulated and His Highness might be assured of that regarding the dealers of his territories with the British Camp,

13. Jeswant Rao said that he would mention the subject to the Rajah and let me know His Highness's sentiments. I told Jeswant Rao that the service would now be pressing and I hoped His Highness would soon favour me with an answer. I also mentioned that rice and chuna would be the principal articles required.

14. I wrote again to Jeswant Rao this morning requesting that the Cowle I had required might be sent me in order that I might commence negotiating with any Bunjaries who might be at hand. Jeswant Rao has promised me an answer in the evening, for which I am still waiting.

15. Immediately on the receipt of your dispatch of the 8th I addressed the letter to the Officer Commanding in Bundelkhand of which the enclosed is a copy. I sent the duplicate of it to be forwarded to the Rajah's Commander in Gurrah Mandla for the purpose of being delivered by the Carcoon who is to be dispatched to Bundelkhand, and at the same time informed Colonel Martindell of the advance of the Rajah's army across the Nerbudda. Jeswant Rao has informed me by note since I commenced this dispatch that the whole army had advanced to Jubbulpore, and that as the enemy was but a few coss distant a battle might be expected. I am laying a Dawke to the Nerbudda to take the first advantage of Meer Khan's movement from Garrah Mandla to extend it to Bundelkhand.

16. I am sorry it is not in my power to afford you any information you mention in the last paragraph of your letter of the 8th. I shall forward an extract from your letter to the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand who may probably be able to furnish any geographical description which may exist of most of those countries and I think it likely that the Acting Resident in Sindhia's Camp may have some survey of the country from Saugor to Nerwa.

P. S.—I have omitted to mention that Jeswant Rao in the conference which I have described above said that the Rajah desired him to make particular enquiries about your movements and to express his hope that you would soon be on the vicinity of Amraoti.

Letter No. 13.—Jenkins reports the details of the defeat of Meer Khan and his expulsion by Sadik Ali Khan, the Commander of Bhonsla.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Nagpur, the 22nd November 1809.

I had yesterday the honour to mention the intelligence communicated to me by Jeswant Rao of the defeat of Meer Khan by the Rajah's troops in the evening Jeswant Rao visited me.

2. He said he was sent by the Rajah to reply to my friendly congratulations, and to offer those of His Highness to me, in return, on an event so auspicious to the views and wishes of the two states. The Rajah, he proceeded, on the receipt of my note requesting the communication of particulars, had ordered him to read to me the letters which His Highness had received from Sadik Ali and Amrut Rao relating the circumstances of the battle.

3. These papers Jeswant Rao accordingly read to me. They were in substance that the Rajah's Commanders had pursued their march from Jubbulpore in the hope of bringing Meer Khan to a battle near Katangi, but that on their arrival there they found that Meer Khan had marched from thence to the Jubra Ghat near Tejgarh, and about eight Gondi Coss from Katangi (probably 22 miles), that immediately on their arrival at Katangi they determined to endeavour to surprize Meer Khan in his encampment and that accordingly very early on the morning of Friday, the 17th instant, Sadik Ali Khan moved off with all the infantry and guns, but before he could reach the enemy the day had broke and Meer Khan had previously sent his baggage with his infantry and guns across the Ghat remaining himself only with his best horse and four or five small guns. Sadik Ali began the battle with the infantry and guns, and kept up a heavy fire until he was supported by the whole of the Rajah's horse, as when the action became general and close, many were killed and wounded on both sides, and towards evening Meer Khan left the Rajah's troops in possession of the field of battle with four elephants, nearly a thousand horses, many standards amongst which some were of note and prisoners of rank.

4. The loss of the enemy was supposed to have been great as well as that of the Rajah's forces, which however was not yet ascertained. Although some respectable persons were known to have been slain. Ghulam Haider Bukshee particularly distinguished himself on this occasion and bore a great part of the brunt of the enemy's charges which were desperate and bold, but ultimately defeated. Sadik Ali also speaks of Ghatgay's exploits in terms of great praise, as well as of the conduct of the Rajah's Pagah, and its Chiefs. After the battle Meer Khan was said to have passed the Ghat, and marched seven coss, and Sadik Ali Khan encamped on the spot as his troops were too much harassed to pursue. He hoped to get possession of those of the enemy's guns which were in the action and which he believed he had not carried away beyond the Ghat, and other accounts reported that Meer Khan was himself wounded, and many of his principal Sirdars slain.

5. When Jeswant Rao had concluded the letter, I expressed myself highly gratified with their contents, and said, I was sure the Governor-General and yourself would be highly gratified with an event which vindicated the honour of the Rajah's Government so long presumptuously insulted by Meer Khan and promised still fairer prospects of victory over lawless plunder and rapine.

6. I asked Jeswant Rao what was anticipated with regard to the future proceedings of Meer Khan. Jeswant Rao replied that the Rajah thought he might either join his battalions or go to Holkar's Camp, if he did not renew his incursions. In a day or two more would be known about his motions which would alight upon his intentions in these respects. His battalions were not yet arrived in the vicinity and Balaram Sait was his enemy in Holkar's Camp. He added that he had to correct what he had told me before about the Pindaries who had joined Meer Khan. They were Dost Mohammed's and not Karim's Dhurrah.

7. I asked where the Pindaries were who had engaged with this Government. He said that by the last accounts they were at Bhopal, and they would probably harass Meer Khan in his retreat. Jeswant Rao made further enquiries about your movements, and whether the Bundelkhand force would undertake any offensive operations against Meer Khan. I communicated what I knew of your movements from your despatch of the 17th instant, which I had the honour to receive yesterday, and with regard to the Bundelkhand force I said I had not yet heard of its having advanced to the frontier and that its operations would depend upon your orders.

8. I again pressed Jeswant Rao on the subject of the Banjaries who have not yet been with me, and he again promised that they should come to me, and excused the delay which had occurred on the grounds of the present Hindu festival which kept the Rajah and his ministers almost entirely at the temple, from which he himself had been sent to me by the Rajah.

9. The circumstances which have led to Meer Khan's retreat and to the occurrence of the 17th so unexpectedly favourable to the Rajah's cause seem to require some development. In a private letter which I received yesterday from the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand, dated the 10th instant, in acknowledgment of the letter which I addressed to him respecting the force at Kuckeroutee as mentioned in my dispatch of the 29th ultimo he informs me that he should instantly suggest to the Commanding Officer in Bundelkhand to make that force consisting originally of seven companies of Infantry, two six pounders and a troop of cavalry, of sufficient strength to maintain that position. This would probably have been immediately done.

10. Meer Khan moved from Telwarry to Jubbulpore I believe on the 12th. Sadik Ali crossed the Nerbudda on the 13th and probably on the same day Meer Khan recrossed the Hirree Nadi and encamped on this side of Katangi. Meer Khan appears to have remained near that position till the 15th or 16th and to have marched again on one of these dates to the Jubra Ghat, always sending his baggage one day in advance together with his infantry and the greater part of his guns including those which he had taken in Garrah Mandla.

11. Meer Khan would doubtless be aware of the probability of his rear being menaced from Bundelkhand, although he might or might not have heard of any movements of troops in that quarter and that with the Rajah's army in his front he might be hampered in his retreat from Garrah Mandla. The Governor-General's letter would of course have its influence on his mind however he might wish to conceal it by the outward display of insolance and disregard. It is probable therefore that to these united causes more than to anyone in particular, may be attributed his determination to evacuate the province.

The same as the above to:—
Captain Sydenham, dated 23rd.
H. Russell, Esq., dated 24th.
Lieutenant R. Close, dated 25th.

Letter No. 14.—This letter indicates the route that Colonel Close was to take from Wardha. He had arrived at Amraoti on 1st December.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Ramtek, the 3rd December 1809.

I have just received the Rajah's reply to my enquiries about the route by which he wishes you to proceed to Pandhurna. Jeswant Rao writes me that the Rajah intended to have mentioned me yesterday Amner as the best route to Pandhurna, and that the road to Amner by Waroora, Ghal and Poosul was preferable to that by Ashti which is very long and bad.

I lose no time in mentioning this to you as it seems to show that His Highness would prefer that you should not move by the Ashti route.

Letter No. 15.—This letter along with its enclosures are important. They refer to the determination of Meer Khan to wage war against the Bhonsla and the British Government if the latter interfered in favour of the Bhonsla. Meer Khan had intimated the Governor-General about it. They also carry the decision of the Commander-in-Chief about the plan of operation and the military force and equipments which will be required for the purpose.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, AMRAOTI.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Amraoti, the 2nd December 1809.

Yesterday I had the honour to receive from the Acting Chief Secretary at Fort William a despatch, dated 7th November, relative to the force which is proposed to be assembled in Bundelkhand, of which a copy I conclude, has been transmitted for the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

Meer Khan in his second letter to His Lordship, which I have just forwarded by express, has openly avowed his intention to persevere in hostilities against the Rajah of Nagpur and to make war with the English, if the British Government interfere to prevent the execution of that intention, and in order to show that he is sincere in making the declaration has moved to Deori accompanied by Vazeer Mohammed Khan of Bhopal. As affairs have arrived at this advanced stage, I conclude that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General will give directions that the general plan of operations mentioned in your dispatch to Mr. Jenkins of the 18th October, for eventual adoption against Meer Khan be proceeded upon, by which the force assembling in Bundelkhand would probably operate to most advantage by invading Seronge, while the army from the Deccan should act direct against Meer Khan, as circumstances might suggest. This Chief has at present a large corps of infantry with guns under Mohammed Shah Khan, apparently subsisted by the Rajah of Jodhpore, which shows that his influence with that Government must be considerable. The province of Seronge serves him as a place of arms to support his views in maintaining the ascendancy which he has manifestly acquired in the principality of Bhopal, and in prosecuting his plan of subjugating the Government of Nagpur. His ambitious projects at Holkar's Durbar are too well known to require being noticed by invading the Nagpur territory, he has further ingratiated himself with the Government of Bhopal, and his prevalence over the mind of Vazeer Mohammed Khan, may be further inferred from the latter having embarked with him in his present carrier, and given the fort of Raisseen to him as a safe retreat for his family. Supposing him to preserve the attachment of Tulsi Bai and by it to have the means of recovering the control which he acquired at Holkar's Durbar, and that he should be permitted to reduce the Rajah of Nagpur to be even his tributary, his resources would soon be such as to make him a respectable growing power on the Nerbudda, whose future strides it would be impossible to calculate. From considerations such as these I am disposed to think that the combined attack on Meer Khan's power which I have adverted to, will be put in execution. Under the impression, I shall advance to the Wardha, and if circumstances be suitable, from thence to Amnair, where I shall be conveniently situated for covering Nagpur, or proceeding to the Nerbuddah as occasion may require.

To—COLONEL CLOSE.

SIR,

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General having requested that the Vice-President in Council would take into his consideration the arrangements which should be adopted at this Presidency to protect the province of Bundelkhand from the incursions of Meer Khan and to enable the force employed on that service eventually to co-operate with your division, and the question having been referred to the Commander-in-Chief for his sentiments, I am directed to transmit to you for your information the accompanying copy of two letters and their enclosures from the Military Secretary to His Excellency, containing the plan which are proposed by him to be adopted with a view to the attainment of those important objects, and which have been ordered by Government to be accordingly carried into effect.

Fort William :
The 7th November 1809.

G. DOWDESWELL,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, ESQ., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders of Government as conveyed in your letter to my address of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to acquaint you, that with a view of effecting the important objects proposed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General as they relate to the attack meditated by Meer Khan on the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, His Excellency has to recommend that the force now in Bundelkhand consisting of one Regiment of Native Cavalry, five Battalions of Native Infantry and one Company of Pioneers, be immediately reinforced with one Company of European Artillery, two Regiments of Native Cavalry, His Majesty's 53rd Regiment and five Companies of Light Infantry to complete the Battalion under Major Kelly to 10 Companies. This arrangement would give a disposable force of 6,200 men as by delaying the relief of corps now in progress a sufficient force would be left for the protection of Bundelkhand, in the event of the field force being required to move out of the province.

As it is not stated in the letter or memorandum received from the Governor-General what amount of force Meer Khan is supposed to be leading into the field, the Commander-in-Chief is not competent to determine with reference to his strength how far the force proposed to be collected in Bundelkhand may be deemed adequate to the effectual accomplishment of the objects in the contemplation of His Lordship, but as the force destined for the more important and pressing operations, under Colonel Close does not appear to exceed 8,800 Men, His Excellency is inclined to view the arrangement herein suggested, as sufficient to secure the province of Bundelkhand from any incursion of the enemy and to admit of such co-operation with Colonel Close's division as circumstances may be found to require.

As this however happens to be the season for the relief of Corps, His Excellency will avail himself of that circumstance to give Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell the power of increasing his strength by postponing the departure of the corps intended to leave the province, until their services can securely be dispensed with, whereby he may immediately augment his force by one Native Battalion, and add another by the 20th of next month. His Excellency will also direct Major-General St. Leger to hold His Majesty's 8th Light Dragoons in readiness to move (as far as it may be done without entailing expense) whenever Lieutenant-Colonel Martendell's report shall appear to him to render that measure expedient.

As soon as the foregoing arrangements shall receive the approbation of Government. His Excellency will give the necessary orders for their immediate execution, but adverting to the circumstances stated by the Governor-General, in regard to the period when the Nerbudda river may be expected to be fordable, and the impossibility of having the force under Colonel Close in readiness to prevent the troops of Meer Khan from crossing it; His Excellency deeming it of importance, that no time should be lost in making some demonstration on the side of Bundelkhand to excite the apprehensions of Meer Khan and thereby perhaps deter him from prosecuting his projected invasion of Berar, caused orders to be forwarded by last night's Dak to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell to concentrate without delay the whole of his disposable force at such point as might appear to him with reference to Meer Khan's position, etc., best calculated to give effect to the object in view; and His Excellency will be prepared to furnish that officer with such further instructions as the arrangements of Lord Minto appear to require, as soon as he is honoured with the further orders of Government.

It being of importance that a communication should be established beween Colonel Close and Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, at the earliest practicable period, His Excellency begs to recommend that the former officer be apprised by a direct communication from this Government, of the arrangements which it may be pleased to sanction, and His Excellency will also direct Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell to use every exertion in his power to open a prompt communication with the Hyderabad detachment.

The Commander-in-Chief has also to request that Mr. Richardson, the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand, may be apprised of the intended plan of operations and directed to render Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell every assistance in his power, in providing supplies of grain, carriage, etc.

Enclosed is a return of the force intended for the service in question in which the probable period of the arrival of the several Corps in Bundelkhand is specified.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
P. CAREY,
Military Secretary.

Headquarters Calcutta:
The 5th November 1809.

To—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, Esq., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Sir,

The Commander-in-Chief deeming it of importance with reference to the arrangements submitted in my letter to your address of yesterday's date, that there should be a sufficient battering train on the west bank of the Jamuna for any eventual operations which the probable hostilities with Meer Khan may render necessary, I am directed by His Excellency to enclose a memorandum of the establishments of guns, etc., which he thinks it would be expedient to detach to Kalpee, with the least possible delay and which I have accordingly to request you will be pleased to submit to the consideration of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Headquarters Calcutta : P. CAREY,

The 6th November 1809. Military Secretary.

Proposed

Memorandum—small battering train for Kalpee—

Four Iron 18 pounders—Mounted complete.

Four Iron 12 pounders—Mounted complete.

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete.

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete.

Two Brass 5½-inch Mortars—Mounted complete.

There are at present at Kalpee—

Two Iron 18-pounders—Mounted complete.

Two Iron 12-pounders—Mounted complete.

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete.

These pieces were used at the late sieges in Bundelkhand and their carriages, particularly the wheels, being much shook, I sent for them to Cawnpore, and put them into complete repair, by new wheels, new checks, and whatever was required. I sent them back in the month of June last.

J. HORSFORD,

Lt. Colonel.

Letter No. 16.—The letter is important because it indicates the northern boundary of Bhonsla's dominions and certain possessions beyond that boundary. It also gives the route that Colonel Close was to take to reach Pandhurna.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL CLOSE.

Ramtek, the 4th December 1809.

I was yesterday favoured with your letter of the 1st and this morning with that of the 2nd instant.

My official dispatches of yesterday will have made you acquainted with the latest intelligence I have or that has reached the Rajah, of Meer Khan's proceedings. The Rajah has a Dawke of camel Hircarrahs to the Nerbudda who bring him news in, I believe, two days but he certainly does not take the steps for receiving early accounts which are in his power.

I had a writer in Meer Khan's Camp until he recrossed the Nerbudda, when my intelligence was stopped, but I hope soon to establish another, and to get very quick accounts as I am joining a Dawke of Hircarrahs, from that which is already established to Jubbulpore via Chaparah, from the latter place to Chawalpatta. It certainly is of great importance that you should have the quickest accounts of Meer Khan's movements. I have often pressed this on the Ministers. Your advance will be of great benefit in that respect and if you should adopt the plan proposed by the Rajah of taking up a position at Pandhurna, you can receive the quickest accounts. The roads to Nagpur, both from Amner and Pandhurna are very good and the distance small.

Reports say that Sadik Ali is thinking of crossing the Nerbudda at the Kherpani, or the Chawalpatta Ghat but I have as yet no correct intelligence. Neither have I heard of any movements in Bundelkhand.

Deori, near which place Meer Khan is encamped, has no connection with this Government. It pays tribute, as well as Saugor to Sindhia, and Meer Khan has several times gained possession of it, in the prosecution of similar claims on the part of Holkar.

The Rajah's frontier, from Hoshangabad to Gurrah Mandla, was formerly the Nerbudda. He has now only possession to the northward of the river of the districts of Chainpore, Baree and Chaukigarh in Bhopal which I believe extend between those places and the Nerbudda. They were lately taken from the Nawab of Bhopal. The enclosed sketch of the Nerbudda fills up a claim which is void in all maps, and is all the information which Mr. Lloyd has yet been able to obtain of that quarter from want of some known place to work on which he has now obtained in Saugar, from the Surveyor-General.

Besides the districts of Chainpore Baree, the Rajah's mother has Gunje Basoudee near Bhilsa, from Sindhia for Pawn Meer Khan in coming down took possession of it, but was gallant enough to restore it, and to give liberty to the old Lady's Dewan, whom he had carried away.

With regard to the Nawab Salabat Khan the Rajah has made no direct intimation to me. Some time ago when it was expected you might come to Nagpur, Jeswant Rao gave some hints that if Salabat Khan should accompany you, as he was a great Sardar, the Rajah must receive him. To this the Rajah's mother had a great objection. That Rajah wished me to know this, although he did not wish his name to be used on the occasion. He had no objection to the troops but to the Nawab and Fatteh Jung Khan. From this circumstance and from His Highness's request on a former occasion that the Nawab's troops might not accompany Col. Doveton in the pursuit of the Pindaries through his territories, I should infer that unless absolutely necessary the Rajah would be well pleased if they did not accompany the British troops.

There is another subject which the Rajah has not touched upon probably from delicacy or a fear of offending. This is the killing of beef in His Highness's territories, which is generally forbidden under severe penalties, although there are some particular places where it is tolerated or winked at, if done privately. It is not allowed publicly, I understand in any of his Camps, although it may be sometimes done underhand by his Musalman troops. An assurance on this subject, would I conceive be very gratifying to His Highness's feelings.

I have the pleasure to send you a surveyed route from Bisnoor to Amner by Ashti and Sawngee. My latter dispatch of yesterday will have made you acquainted with the Rajah's wishes on the subject of your route to Pandhurna. If you should have advanced to Bisnoor, His Highness would not of course object to the advance of the British troops through his territories, if necessary in your opinion.

Letter No. 17.—The letter reports how in an action on the 8th December Sadik Ali Khan Bhonsla's Commander defeated Amir Khan.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Ramtek, the 12th December 1809.

Jeswant Rao visited me yesterday evening. He said he was sent by the Rajah to show me the letters which had been received from Sadik Ali Khan, and other accounts which had reached His Highness on the subject of the battle of the 8th instant.

Jeswant Rao accordingly read to me a letter from Sadik Ali dated on the day of the battle and an Akhbar of the subsequent morning. The account which these documents gave of the battle was exactly the same as that which is described in the Akhbar which I have done myself the pleasure of forwarding to you in my private letter of this date. By this it appears that Meer Khan and the Nawab of Bhopal brought seven guns with them of which two were taken. The loss on the Rajah's side seems trifling and that on Meer Khan's part is undefined.

Sadik Ali adds to his description of the battle that from the immense body of Pindaries who had surrounded his Camp he could not pursue the enemy to any distance. Five thousand of Seetoo's Dhurra under the two Runjuns accompanied the enemy, which confirm the reports. I formerly mentioned of their having been seduced by Vazeer Mohammed Khan from the Rajah's interests. Sadik Ali further complains that in consequence of the numerous bodies of Pindaries who beset his camp, his supplies are very precarious and all kinds of provisions exceedingly dear.

When Jeswant Rao had received those documents I said that the success of the Rajah's arms was highly gratifying to me and would afford the greatest satisfaction to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General and you. I repeated my congratulations on so auspicious an event. I then asked Jeswant Rao whether Meer Khan was known to have recrossed the Nerbudda after the battle. Jeswant Rao replied in the negative, but that no particulars further than were contained in the papers he had read, were yet received. There were reports he said, by Hircarrahs that Meer Khan was wounded, and the Nawab of Bhopal killed; but he could not say what credit was to be attached to them.

I then alluded to the circumstances of Setoo's Dhurra having accompanied Meer Khan. Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah had asked the agent who was still here what it meant. His answer was that although they had accompanied Meer Khan in order to keep on terms with him, as the delays which occurred in the conclusion of their negotiations here left them still in some doubt as to the Rajah's ultimate intention yet that they had committed no act of hostility, and the Agent pledged himself that the Dhurra would now fall upon Meer Khan.

I had before received an Akhabar from Jubbulpore mentioning Baptiste's approach to the Southward and had communicated it to Jeswant Rao who now asked if I knew to what to attribute that approach. I said I did not, but that some accounts mentioned Baptiste to be sent for the purpose of levying money at Saugor and Bhopal. Perhaps I said as Sindhia had been apprized of our resolution to oppose Meer Khan, and as he had also grounds of complaint against that Chief he might think the present a good opportunity for taking his revenge. I asked whether the Rajah had received any intimation of his approach.

Jeswant Rao replied that he had not, except by report, and that the Rajah would formerly have been much obliged if Sindhia would have sent Baptiste according to his repeated application but that he could not conceive why he should now send troops in this direction.

Nothing further of consequence passed.

I have to correct an error in my second dispatch of the 10th instant. It is there stated that Meer Khan crossed the Nerbudda on the 7th and that the battle took place on the 8th instant. It is correctly mentioned in my first letter of that date the battle was on Thursday, the 7th, and Meer Khan crossed the river on Wednesday, the 6th instant.

The same as the above to—
(1) Capt. Sydenham.
(2) Lt. Close, dated 13th December.
(3) H. Russell, dated 14th December.

Letter No. 18.—In this letter Close mentions the purposes for which the operations were planned against Meer Khan. These purposes were the security of Bhonsla's territories and of Company's possessions. In consequence of the benefits that will accrue to the Bhonsla he should be prepared to accept a Subsidiary Force.

From—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Pandhurna, the 16th December 1809.

I have this moment received your public and private letters of yesterday. To see you in Camp would afford me the highest gratification, but as a constant communication with the Rajah's Durbar is indispensable at this period, I am unwilling that it should suffer any interruption, even the shortest. Our hopes of meeting therefore must rest on some future occasion. The Rajah's affliction is naturally such as to make him incapable of business. In such a situation, it could not be expected that he could come forth to a public interview.

Meer Khan appears to have suffered materially in the action, and if it be true as the Akhbars state, that he has sent off his Baggage to Seronge, and that his horse have begun to leave him, his operations have probably ceased for the present season. Under this appearance it will be necessary to determine, how the British force assembled for the Rajah's protection, should be disposed of. The expense of keeping it in the Field is enormous. When it was ordered to the frontier, it was probably imagined that the service would terminate in the entire dispersion of Meer Khan's troops, and nearly the destruction of his power. In Mr. Edmonstone's letter to you of the 18th October, the employment of a force from Bundelkhand, the taking of Seronge, and eventually giving it to the Rajah, are glanced at, and I should suppose that these measures were not contemplated without the notion, that for the benefits derivable from them, the Rajah would be disposed to accept a subsidiary force, which might be posted in advance and cover

Saugor and Seronge, keep Bhopal in order and rout the Pindaries; and thus establish a line of connection between Bundelkhand and the Deccan. Such a plan if executed, would extend the resources and prospects of the Nagpur Government, and although bearing a little on its independence would give it lasting security. In the present situation of our troops, Seronge might be seized with little delay, and the whole plan put in execution in the course of the present season. My object in touching on these points, is to learn your opinion whether if our Government should be disposed to give the Rajah a subsidiary force on easy terms, His Highness could be prevailed on to accept it, on a basis connected with the execution of the plan before noticed. It has always appeared to me that the greatest advantage derived by a Native Prince from accepting a British Subsidiary Force, is the security, which it affords to his Government, as he is personally concerned, and the certainty of succession which it holds forth to the Dynasty. The Rajah's family seems to be circumstanced in such a manner as to make the attainment of such objects peculiarly valuable to it, and this consideration alone should give his mind a bias towards the system of measures alluded to. I should not omit to observe, that I am not assured yet, whether our Government would conceive that it could afford to give a Subsidiary Force to the Rajah, on such easy terms as His Highness's disposition on the subject were generally known, the adjustment of subordinate points might not be difficult. As Holkar's Dominion has fallen under the control of Meer Khan, Government has had in consideration the practicability of withdrawing it from his superintendence, and establishing Holkar's son on the Musnud, by means of a Subsidiary Force, a plan which would connect Guzerat and the Deccan with the Jumna, but circumstances do not appear to be sufficiently favourable. Yet, for entering on the execution of such an extensive proceeding, for establishing the line of connection between Bundelkhand and the Deccan on occasion so favourable as the present is not likely to occur again, a point, which should be seriously considered by both Governments independently of the foregoing subject. It is desirable to know whether Sadik Ali Khan has any plan in view at present, besides that of reducing Meer Khan to further extremities by pressing upon his rear.

Letter No. 19.—Colonel Close discusses the reasons why the Bhonsla has become lukewarm in his desire to defeat and crush Meer Khan. The enclosures are important for the purpose. They are copies of letters from the Governor-General and form enclosures to Edmonstone's letter to Jenkins dated 18th December 1809.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Pandhurna, the 18th December 1809.

I have the honour to acknowledge your dispatch of yesterday's date.

The result of the conversations, which you have lately held with the Rajah, induces me to advert to the following considerations.

The immediate object of assembling the British Force on the frontier, was to cover His Highness's capital and defend his Government against the hostile attempts of Meer Khan and his adherents. From the turn which affairs have taken and the sentiments which the Rajah has recently expressed that occasion seems to have ceased. Although His Highness is still at war with Meer Khan he does not appear to apprehend much inconvenience from the future efforts of that chieftain. The Nagpur troops have maintained a superiority for some time, though acting defensively, and from present appearances, both armies may long continue to operate on the Nerbuddah without any decided advantage being obtained by either. If in such a state of things, the British Force should advance to the Nerbudda, Meer Khan would have only to keep his army on the northern bank to be secure. The British Force could not with any propriety cross the Nerbudda to pursue him, as his rear would be so open as to allow him to retire to any distance and return again when it might suit his convenience. In crossing the river under such circumstances, the British Force could have no proportionate object. Unless Meer Khan, therefore, should advance from the river into the Rajah's territories, or that some joint plan of operation should be adopted, to dislodge him from the eastern side of Malwa, and establish the means of preventing his return, the British Force must, if kept together, become an army of observation, and it may be apprehended that the British Government will not be reconciled to the expense of keeping it in the field for the purpose merely of watching a tedious warfare which His Highness's Government may continue to carry on with Vazeer Mohammed and Meer Khan. His Highness from his expressions, seems to think that Meer Khan will soon retire to the westward, and abandon his present enterprize. It is not easy however to discover ground for such a conjecture. For some time past, Meer Khan has shown a decided inclination to establish himself on the southern parts of Malwa. He has formed an intimate friendship with Zalimsingh of Kota, who has accommodated him with Sheer Ghur as a place of retreat and he has got Seronge as a Military Depot. Vazeer Mohammed Khan to save himself from future dangers must assist him to the last extreme of his means and as a soldier of fortune, Meer Khan must know that to lose his reputation must be nearly equivalent to losing all. Supposing him to be much reduced, therefore, by his late ill-success, it may be expected that he will rather reinforce himself from Jodhpore and Seronge, and renew the attack, than give up his present scheme, and return to the westward with a broken reputation. Thus I think it may be seen that His Highness is not yet in the probability of being soon rid of his enemy or relieved from the expense of keeping a large army in the field. However this may be, I cannot be led to believe that Government will permit the British Force to continue in the field as an army of observation and under this impression I shall keep the troops in such a disposition as that they may readily comply with any orders of recall from Government unless some proposition be received from His Highness of a nature to warrant a different disposition of the troops and be of importance sufficient to become a subject of reference to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

I propose to direct the division under Lieutenant-Colonel Conran to halt at some point on the Wardha until further orders.

To—AMEER KHAN.

Written 16th December 1809.

I have received your two letters, one in reply to my original letter, the other acknowledging the receipt of the duplicate, and containing some additional matter, recapitulate those received 23rd November and 15th December.

You have written in your last letter that having come for the purpose of attacking the troops of the Rajah of Nagpur, they proposed a payment of eleven lacs and half of rupees, which you were not disposed to accept, but that in the meantime, my letter having arrived a desire to comply with my wishes induced you to accept that sum, that you in consequence took hostages and retired, delivering over the Rajah's places to his officers. Your reply to my original letter however certainly did not express any inclination to accede to my wish; on the contrary, it indicated an intention of prosecuting your designs and required that the British Government should not interfere in your disputes with the Maharaja, nay in the letter which you wrote at the same time to Mr. Jenkins you observed, that “If the British Government should interfere, the Treaty would be violated and the flames of war would be rekindled to the injury of both parties. You added that your troops drew their subsistence from the southern Chiefs and required that the British Government should not prevent them from obtaining supplies, otherwise on the principle of being of one tribe they would all unite and carry disorder and coufusion in the British territory”.

But as you have positively asserted you retreated in compliance with my wishes I shall not dispute that point. I must observe however that it is equally contrary to justice and to the object of the application for you to extort a contribution from the Maharaja.

The British Government interfere for the protection of the Rajah, because it is most evident you could have no just demand against the Rajah of Nagpur nor any right to seize his country. subsist your troops on his resources, after done so, can it be expected that the British Government should suffer you to prosecute your because the Maharaja refuses to satisfy an agreement for money extorted from his officer by the approach of your Army, and concluded without his orders, and without his knowledge. Or after ascertaining that you have no right to extort a contribution from His Highness, how is it consistent with justice that I should aid you in enforcing it.

You assert that you are acting with the orders of Maharaja Jeswant Rao Holkar. But you will observe from the enclosed copy of the Maharaja's letter to me that he has no quarrel whatever with the Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and that he has not sanctioned your proceedings against him, for the Maharajah writes "A friendship and fraternity have long subsisted between me and His Highness Raghojee Bhonsla in the spirit of the utmost degree of cordiality, accordingly when the Nabab Amir Uddoulah Bahadur crossed over into the Rajah's territories, I issued orders previously to my receipt of your Lordship's letter, directing him not only to abstain from doing any kind of injury to His Highness's territories, but to endeavour to extend his protection to them. Now however that I have been favoured with your Lordship's kind letter I have dispatched successive letters to the Nabab repeating my former orders in the most peremptory manner.

It is evident therefore that instead of acting under the Maharaja's orders, you have been acting in direct opposition to them, so that what I before wrote to you that your late measures and present views proceeded entirely from yourself and not from the orders of the Maharaja is confirmed by the Maharaja himself.

I know of no such engagements as you have mentioned in your first letter which preclude the British Government from protecting the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla from invasion and conquest. Besides which, the engagements of the British Government are with Maharaja Jeswant Rao Holkar, who far from considering its interference for the protection of the state of Nagpur as a violation of the treaty, unites with me in expecting you to abstain from molesting the Rajah's territory.

You cannot therefore but admit the justice of the expectation expressed in my first letter that you should retire and refrain from any further molestation. The injury which you have done must have occasioned the loss of lacs of rupees to the Raja.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE.

To—JESWANT RAO HOLKAR.

Written 18th December 1809.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (recapitulate that received the 9th December) and am much gratified by its contents.

I judge it proper to transmit to you for your information copies of two letters from Amir Khan and also a copy of my reply. You will observe that Amir Khan far from complying with your repeated requisitions after having plundered and possessed himself of the territory of Maharaja Raghojee Bhonsla north of the Nerbudda, extorted an agreement from the Maharajah's officer for the payment of a large sum of money, and because the Maharaja who never sanctioned any such agreement refused to ratify it, he has resumed his designs against the Maharajah's territories, and has resolved to make war with the British Government if it interferes to oppose them. As Amir Khan therefore is resolved upon prosecuting his unjust designs contrary to your orders, and to the remonstrances of the British Government, he has rendered himself equally your enemy and the enemy of that Government. It is a satisfaction to me to reflect that the measures necessary at present and the execution of his unwarrantable projects are calculated to draw still closer the bonds of amity and good understanding between the two states.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 20.—The letter gives useful information about Meer Khan, and his movements after his second defeat by Sadik Ali Khan.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE,

TO—LIEUT.-COLONEL MARTINDELL.

Camp Pandhurna, the 23rd December 1809.

I have this moment received a dispatch from Mr. Jenkins in which he has honoured me with a copy of your letter to his address under date the 6th instant.

Meer Khan after having been worsted by the Nagpur Army on his retreat from Jabbulpore, took up a position in the vicinity of Deori, while Sadik Ali Khan, the Nagpur Commander returned to Jubbulpore, recrossed the river and marching down, the left bank encamped near Shawpoor.

At this period Meer Khan addressed a passionate letter to the Right Honourable the Governor-General stating that the Nagpur troops had managed to deprive him of a mad elephant, that the Rajah was bound to pay him fifteen lacks of rupees, that he would compel him to discharge the amount and besides have revenge for the insult he had sustained. He further observed, that although he might not consider himself equal to cope with the British arms, he could hang on the front and rear of their army as to cause a destruction which would be sufficiently evident. Shortly after Meer Khan proceeded to put his threat in execution by crossing the river and attacking Sadik Ali Khan in his position near Shawpoor, but having been worsted he returned to his former situation. This second discomfiture appears to have only stimulated this desire of revenge and of retrieving his reputation and by Akhbars of the 19th from the Nerbudda, he is stated to be receiving reinforcements of infantry and guns for the purpose of making another attack on Sadik Ali, who is only able to act on the defensive.

I have the pleasure of enclosing to you a sketch of the Nerbudda from Jubbulpore to Hoshangabad, with its relative situation to the principal points in the neighbourhood of Bundelkhand.

I conclude that this dispatch cannot reach you in less than twelve or fifteen days and that by the time of its arrival you will be fully prepared to march.

You will therefore on receiving this packet come forward with the field force under your command by such a line as shall appear best calculated to take Meer Khan's force in rear whilst he fronts Nagpur, or to intercept his retreat, should the present movements induce him to retire to the westward. As Meer Khan is intimately connected with Wazeer Mohammed Khan of Bhopal who serves him personally in the field it is probable that the eventual retreat of the former would on the movement of your force lie by Bhopal which on this account might be considered a favourable point for you to march on. It is calculated that you will commence your march by the 7th proximo, before which date my preparations for movement will have been complete and I shall accordingly march on to Hoshangabad, where I shall probably arrive at the time when you will have approached to the vicinity of Bhopal. Although present appearances would not indicate a necessity for the services of the battering train collected at Kalpee, yet in order to meet possible contingencies, I consider that it would be advisable to bring it to the most advanced position in Bundelkhand, where it can be stationed with security.

On receiving from you the letter which I am led shortly to expect by a perusal of yours to Mr. Jenkins of the 6th instant, I shall use the opportunty of the return of the cossids to write to you further on the subject of the service.

The force to march with me from hence consists of a Squadron of Horse artillery, with ten guns and twelve Galloper Guns arranged to act by Brigades or in Squadron,. one regiment of Dragoons and five regiments of native cavalry, one regiment of European infantry and seven battalions of Natives, a small park and a Brigade of six-Pounders to each corps of Infantry.

I shall endeavour to keep you regularly informed of any movements, and shall hope to receive frequent accounts from you as the cossids who will bear your letters will constitute the most certain conveyance of our correspondence.

Letter No. 21.—Col. Close intimates his determination to march up to the Nerbudda.

From COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Pandhurna, the 23rd December 1809.

I am this moment fovoured with your private letter of the 22nd, which in respect to present views, is quite satisfactory.

You will perceive from the accompanying packet to your address, that I have determined to proceed to the Nerbudda, on the plan originally suggested by His Highness the Rajah, and have written to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell accordingly.

Letter No. 22.—In this letter Colonel Close points out that the Governor-General's decision to limit the objective of the military operations to force Meer Khan to retreat beyond the Nerbudda and not capture Sironj will not serve any useful purpose. He gives reasons for this view.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Nimpani, the 12th January 1810.

Akhbars which I yesterday received from the Nerbudda, informed me that Meer Khan, has given permission to some of his Pindaries, to return to Raisseen while he dispatched others in great number to the Southward, in order to plunder in Berar, and that it was reported to be his intention to draw off to the Northern bank of the Nerbudda, and pursue the route of Chainpore Barree, which had been lately taken by Vazeer Mohammed Khan from his Highness the Rajah of Nagpur, together with Choukigarh a post, northerly of it in the direction of Bhopal.

This morning I received an Akhbar from my newswriter at Hoshangabad, dated 10th instant, which confirms the above intelligence and further intimates that Meer Khan had moved on the 7th instant for the village of Suttarahgaon, and was on his march to Chainpore Baree and that Sadik Ali had marched to Scinkeir.

It appears that Meer Khan had prepared a large body of Pindaries at an advanced point on this route, with the view that they might penetrate into Berar the moment they should hear of the march of this force from Pandhurna. On the 5th instant, these forces when I ascended the Bezoli Ghat they passed Betul and marching for Ellichpore made their appearance near that place on the 7th instant, and after plundering some villages moved in a southerly direction as if they intended to ascend the Adjuntee Ghat. Of their further proceedings I have not yet received any material information.

Captain Jones had recently arrived at Amraoti and having heard of their appearance at Ellichpore, took measures for the protection of his convoy, but soon ascertained that they had pursued a westerly route, he was afterwards joined by Major Travers, and by a letter of the 9th instant from that officer, he was to leave Amraoti accompanied by Captain Jones' Convoy on the 11th instant. The last convoy from Hyderabad under Captain Bawdler may by this time have arrived within a few miles of Basim. The Officer Commanding the Native Battalion which I ordered from Pandhurna to Amraoti, is instructed to watch the progress of Captain Bawdler and march on to his support should appearances make such a movement necessary.

On the 10th instant I encamped at Betul and yesterday arrived at this ground after a march of some difficulty, owing to the roughness of the country which is generally covered by a thick jungle. The Shawpore Ghat being three coss in my front and difficult of passage for an army, I judge it expedient to order the cavalry, and one Brigade of native infantry with their guns to march this morning and encamp near the village of Shahpore six coss distant from hence, and tomorrow I propse to join them with the remainder of the troops and departments. Shahpore is reckoned to be about 47 miles from Hoshangabad.

Whilst writing I am honoured with your dispatch of the 30th December 1809, intimating the wish of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, to abandon the comprehensive system of policy to which His Lordship alluded in his minute of the 12th December, and to limit the views of Government to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontier of the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions, and of forming such a disposition of troops as would deter him from resuming his project of invasion.

Copies of the several dispatches which I addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, subsequent to the receipt of your dispatch, dated 7th December, have been regularly transmitted for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General. My first letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, dated 23rd December, informed him that I should march for Hoshangabad on or about the 3rd of this month, and I accordingly moved on the date as reported in my letter to your address of the 7th instant. I have not yet received any communication from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell but an Akhbar of the 4th instant from Pandurang, Mr. Jenkin's News-writer in Sadik Ali Khan's camp, states directly that Hircarrahs had arrived there with a letter to my address from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell and had accordingly pursued their route to Pandhurna. These Hircarrahs will probably join me in a few days, and it may be expected I think that the letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, is to inform me of his having marched for the support of Sadik Ali Khan on the Nerbudda. At this advanced stage of affairs then to limit the views of Government to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontiers of the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions, without an attack upon Seronge or Raisseen, or other places which he may occupy belonging to Vazeer Mohammed Khan, cannot but be attended with difficulty. That Vazeer Mahommed Khan perseveres in hostilities against the Rajah of Nagpur, is evident from his having lately seized on Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh and as Meer Khan has begun to employ his pindaries in plundering Berar, he probably conceives himself to be actually at war with the British Government. From what has passed there can be little reason to hope, that Meer Khan and Vazeer Mohammed will abandon their designs against the Government of Nagpur so long as they retain their present possessions, and to compel Meer Khan to retreat to any distance that may be inconvenient to him, or tend to the safety of the Nagpur Government while he occupies Seronge and places belonging to Vazeer Mohammed Khan, can hardly by (be) effected by any definite pursuit, (and if) permitted to hold such places the Rajah's territories north of the river must be always at his command.

To order forward the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, without using it for the purpose of seizing Seronge, and thus dislodging Meer Khan from the eastern side of Malwa, would be to bring it to a considerable distance without an adequate object on which to employ it, and should this force cross the Nerbudda, with no other view but that of endeavouring to bring Meer Khan to action, it might be obliged to recross the Nerbudda in a manner highly prejudicial to its credit and should it fall back from its present station to Berar its retreat would naturally be followed by consequences too melancholy to describe. Sadik Ali by the departure of Meer Khan is enabled to move, and Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell is probably now advanced towards Saugor.

I shall therefore pursue my march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from the Rajah's frontier districts of Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh.

Letter No. 23.—Jenkins writes about the sudden arrival of Sadik Ali Khan at Rajah's Camp in Nagpur from his military camp at Gadarwara. The motives of this action and the consequences are indicated.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.
To—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Nagpur, the 17th January 1810.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 13th and 14th instant.

The intention attributed to Sadik Ali of repairing to the presence, took my attention from the first and I forwarded the Akhbars to the Ministers, who assured me that Sadik Ali had only lately written his being prepared immediately to cross the Nerbudda in pursuit of Meer Khan; and I also received intelligence as I have had the pleasure of stating to you, that the plan had met with the Rajah's complete disapprobation, and that orders had been sent in positive terms to Sadik Ali, by no means to leave his camp.

I had only just received your letter of the 14th which reached me very early on the morning of yesterday, when I learnt that Sadik Ali and Ghulam Haider Bukshee had actually arrived on the preceding night. I understood at the same time that his arrival was quite unexpected by the Rajah, and that His Highness had been roused from his bed to receive him.

I wrote immediately to Jeswant Rao, requesting him to visit me, and I stated to him the contents of your letter and the surprize I felt on learning Sadik Ali's arrival after the communications I had received from the Durbar on the subject. Jeswant Rao assured me that His Highness was much annoyed at the circumstances and quite surprised by Sadik Ali's appearance in disobedience of orders and contrary to the term of his latest communications. Although he said, the Rajah had been awakened on that commander's arrival at his tents, he had declined seeing him at night and early in the morning had sent Narda Chitnavis to his house to learn the occasion of an unwelcome proceeding.

Sadik Ali had represented as his motives, 1st a desire to see the Rajah, 2nd to offer his condolences on the Baee's death, 3rd to get some money of which the army was much in want, 4th to receive orders from the Rajah personally on the subject of the service on which he was engaged, 5th to obtain His Highness's sanction to his having an interview with you for the purpose of ascertaining fully your wishes to which he was directed implicitly to conform, and which he might accomplish by taking your camp in the way to his own. The latter object Jeswant Rao said he was not instructed to mention to me. He hinted that it was connected with the desire of Sadik Ali to take the lead in all affairs, and to ingratiate himself with the Rajah by showing his political address in sounding your views and intentions.

Sadik Ali had further, Jeswant Rao said, assured the Rajah that Jeswant Rao, Duttajee, and the other Chiefs would carry the army forward and that no inconvenience would arise from his absence, but the Rajah was very apprehensive of the bad appearance which Sadik Ali's proceeding would have in your eyes, and did not think that any of the objects alleged, were of sufficient importance to authorize it at such a moment, which was done however, could not be recalled and the only remedy was to hasten his return with all possible expedition.

The time I said, was lost, and the consequences of the proceeding probably irreperable. Sadik Ali's immediate return was indispensable, considering that all measures of co-operation depended on him. I saw no object to be gained by his propsoed visit to your camp. He was in possession of every communication from you which he could expect to receive as to your views, which as far as they related to political matters, would only be made known in any case, through the usual channel, and if Sadik Ali was to return to his camp, the sooner the better.

As you had considered it absolutely necessary that Sadik Ali should not quit his camp your disappointment would be proportionate to the impropriety which you perceived in the measures. Meer Khan's escape if he did entirely escape, might be in a great degree attributable to it at least, if Sadik Ali had complied with your wishes of hanging on his rear, the enemy must have been somewhat impeded in his retreat and might possibly have been brought to action.

Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah was aware of the imprudence of the measure and would not detain Sadik Ali, but would supply everything he wanted in order to hasten his return and make his force efficient. I asked when he would set out. Jeswant Rao said, he would let me know. It would certainly be an early day but the army would march without him. I have the pleasure to forward copies of my last Akhbars from the Camp. Nearly two or three thousand Horse are said to be coming in for want of pay and in consequence of Sadik Ali's proceeding. This was also mentioned by Jeswant Rao. If Sadik Ali's return depends upon the pecuniary affairs, I do not augur well of its being speedy. But I shall continue to press the subject.

Jeswant Rao gave some hints, 36, 11, 90, 50, 5, 18 present 30, 75, 21, 29166, 82, 90 (figures) in the (Figures) which indicate a possibility of some reference to us, being in contemplation. I am sorry to observe the Governor-General's disposition to limit his views, but I think it will be hardly possible and the opportunity may not again occur so fairly.

The Rajah seems to persevere in not entering the city and is going to take up his position for his camp beyond Tellin Khere.

Letter No. 24.—The letter says that Meer Khan had retreated from Gadarwara on the approach of British troops. Close refers to the change in the decision of Governor-General regarding operations against Meer Khan.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—LIEUT.-COLONEL MARTINDELL.

Hoshangabad, the 19th January 1810.

I have had the pleasure to receive your dispatch of the 3rd instant in triplicate.

Meer Khan on being informed that the British troops were approaching towards this place, retired hastily from the position he held near the Nagpur Army at Gadarwara, and taking the route of Chainpore Baree, and Raisseen, pursued his march towards Bhelsa, but whether he is destined for Seronge or Holkar's Camp has not been ascertained. Such further accounts as I may receive of his movements or intentions, shall be communicated to you.

I arrived here this day with a division of the troops; the remainder will join tomorrow.

It is proper I should acquaint you, that by an official dispatch from Mr. Chief Secretary Edmonstone I am informed, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General wishes me to consider his Lordship's views as limited to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontier of the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions and of forming such a disposition of troops, as would deter him from resuming his project of invasion and that if on this place the employment of the force assembled in Bundelkhand should be necessary to compel Meer Khan's retreat from the Rajah's frontier it will be expedient that it may move directly upon the position of Meer Khan, and not upon Seronge, which from various considerations His Lordship is desirous should not be attacked.

From these instructions you will perceive that my proceedings must be regulated by the destination and future intentions of Meer Khan as he has assuredly retired past Raisseen. I conclude that when you approach from Chatterpore you will come by the Ghat of Mattoon.

Letter No. 25.—Colonel Close reports the movements of Meer Khan and the departure of Sadik Ali from Gadarwara for Nagpur leaving his Army in charge of his subordinate officers.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Hoshangabad, the 19th January 1810.

I arrived here this morning with a division of the troops. The remainder will join tomorrow forenoon.

The troops are healthy, and the Horses in good condition, but the draft cattle have suffered a little from the labour they were put to, in passing through a very difficult country from Betul.

Meer Khan's retreat by the way of Belsah, is confirmed through a variety of channels, but to what part he is destined, whether to Seronge or to the westward, has not been ascertained. Vazeer Mohammed by the latest intelligence is at Rassein and his brother Mohammed Karim at Chainpore Barree with a body of Cavalry and a Durra of Pindaries. Three Durras of Pindaries, viz., Seetoo's, Karim Khan's and Dost Mohammed's are said to have accompanied Meer Khan.

Sadik Ali has proceeded to Nagpur, without having given me any notice of his intention to separate from the troops. The first information of his departure I learned from Mr. Jenkins. I hear that he has deputed a relation of his called Raza Sahib, to wait on me, and that he is on the road from Sohagpur. Bukshi Govind Rao is said to have marched towards Jubbulpore, and an officer named Jeswant Rao Duttajee is reported to be now in charge of the Nagpur Army at Gadarwara.

Jaikishan Pant who resides in camp on the part of the Rajah, tells me that he is uninformed as to the motive which induced Sadik Ali to separate from the troops, but conjectures that his object is to prevail on the Rajah, to pay off a part of the arrears due to the troops at Gadarwara.

I have the honour to enclose for the notice of His Lordship, a copy of a dispatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, dated Chatterpur the 3rd instant and also a copy of my reply. My future proceedings will be regulated by the information I may receive of Meer Khan's destination or plans of action.

Letter No. 26.—The letter explains the reasons that led the Governor-General to stop further military operations resulting in the conquest of Sironj.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Fort William, the 25th January 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 12th instant in reply to the communications contained in my letter of the 30th ultimo and to signify to you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entirely approves your intentions of pursuing your march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla's frontier districts of Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh. To dispossess the enemy of the places which he may have wrested from the dominion of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, necessarily forms a part of the original object of assembling our forces. I am further directed to convey to you the following observations having reference to those contained in your dispatch.

2. The consideration which principally induced the Governor-General to discourage the extension of our military operations as far as Seronge was, as stated in my letter of the 30th ultimo the apprehension of its involving us too deeply in the affairs of the interior of Hindustan. His Lordship would have been happy if you had considered the arguments in support of the justice of that apprehension to have been stated with a view to obtain the benefit

of your opinion regarding the assumed fact, that such an extention of the military operations would probably produce the consequences which it was so much the desire of the Governor-General to avoid.

3. The communications which I have had the honour to convey to you under the authority of the Governor-General had uniformly recommended the prosecution of active measures for the purpose of dislodging the force of Amir Khan from its menacing position on the frontier of the Rajah's possessions, and if possible of attacking and dispersing it and His Lordship by his instructions of the 30th ultimo intended that no other limitation should be imposed on those measures, than such as was necessary to avoid the inconvenience and embarassment of being involved in the interest and concerns of the states and Chiefs of Malwa of extending objects of the actual warfare, of entering in short upon a system of proceedings, which by their effect upon the views and apprehensions of others might lead to consequences far beyond the scope of His Lordship's views as described in those instructions.

4. As far as the credit of the British Government is concerned, it did not appear to His Lordship to be in any degree endangered by this proposed limitation; on the contrary His Lordship was disposed to think that having originally declared the sole object of the assembling of our forces to be to defeat the designs of Amir Khan against the dominions of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, when that object should have been attained by the advance of our troops compelling Amir Khan's retreat, and arrangements calculated to prevent the return of the danger which our exertions had averted should have been subsequently formed, our credit would have been maintained as it respected the reputation of our arms, and augmented as connected with the justice and moderation of our views and with the sincerity of our declarations.

5. Another consideration which discouraged the conquest of Seronge with its neighbouring territories was the difficulty of disposing of them. His Lordship foresaw great inconvenience and probable future evil from their being disposed of in any manner under the security of our guarantee and without that guarantee to transfer them to the Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla in other respects the most desirable mode of disposing of them would be nugatory. Upon this .... His Lordship would be happy to receive the communication of your opinion with reference to the event of Seronge or its adjacent territories coming into our possession.

6. The Governor-General fully appreciates the advantage of depriving Amir Khan of the Depot and point of support which Seronge affords him and of the arms, ordnance and stores which it is supposed to contain and would entirely approve the pursuit of his force to that place or into the territory of Bhopal with the expectation of overtaking and dispersing it. But if the prosecution

of the siege of Seronge and the occupation of the adjacent country, and the dispossession of the Nabob of Bhopal should lead us into that extended range of protracted military operations, of political controversies and of commixture in the complicated and conflicting interests and concerns of that distracted region, His Lordship would desire if possible to abstain from engaging in such an enterprize. If there is no hazard of these consequences, His Lordship would consider as highly politic and advisable the employment of every exertion for the disgrace, defeat and destruction of the forces of Amir Khan, by pursuing him to those places of refuge where by an accession of resources he might be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity of resuming the prosecution of his ambitious designs.

7. In directing the communication of these observations, it is the object of the Governor-General distinctly to explain to you what he is anxious both to avoid and to attain, leaving the rest to your distinguished ability and judgment on which His Lordship reposes the most implicit confidence and desiring not so much to restrain as to afford a latitude to the exercise of your discretion, with relation to the points which form the subject of this dispatch.

8. I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your further dispatches of the dates noted in the margin.

Letter No. 27.—The letter reports the movements of Close towards Bhopal.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Umaria, the 31st January 1810.

I have the honour to report for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Govenor-General, that the rear division of the troops cleared the Kairband Ghat yesterday and joined the advanced division here this forenoon.

At Hoshangabad I have left the 1st Battalion 26th Regiment under Major Bruce, and the greater part of His Highness the Nizam's Infantry and Cavalry. Under this arrangement Hoshangabad will serve as a Grain Depot, and a point of support to the troops in advance. The convoy of treasure under Captain Bowdler arrived at Amraoti on the 28th instant. The treasure will now come forward to Hoshangabad, escorted by the 1st Battalion 10th Regiment, commanded by Captain Howell.

This morning I received duplicate and triplicate of Lieutenant Colonel Martindell's letter of the 11th instant the former dated the 12th from Choukigarh and the latter the 13th from Goolgung from which it appears that he marched agreeable to his former intimation.

Accounts from the northward, now mention that Meer Khan after having halted at Seronge pursued his march to the westward.

Tomorrow I propose to make a forced march with the cavalry and a Brigade of Infantry in the direction of Raisseen.

Letter No. 28.—The letter reports about an interview between Colonel Close and the Wakil of Vazeer Mohammed Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal. Close had asked the Vakeel to communicate to his master that he should give up Choukigarh and Chainpore Baree to the Bhonsla to which he agreed.

From—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Umaria, the 31st January 1810.

The Vakeel alluded to by Vazeer Mohammed Khan in his letter to my address, of which I have had the honour to transmit a copy, arrived in camp on the evening of the 28th instant, and two private elephants which from the misconduct of their keepers, had been taken to a considerable distance from Camp, and carried off by some Pindaries during the halt at Hoshangabad, were sent back by Vazeer Mohammed Khan, and arrived in Camp at nearly the same time with the Vakeel. I judged it expedient to defer admitting the Vakeel to an interview, but desired my Munshi to hear, and report to me what he had to communicate. By this step I learnt that he had brought another letter to my address from his master who had further charged him with a mission expressive of his attachment and submission to the British Government.

This morning I admitted the Vakeel to an interview. He presented me with the letter before noticed, of which a copy is enclosed. After it had been read he made a studied speech, in which he detailed the calamities experienced by the Bhopal Government from the attacks of Sindhia and the Rajah of Nagpur, whose views went to the very subversion of the Government, and the seizure of Vazeer Mohammed's person, in order to place him in confinement. That overmatched by these Chieftains he had been diven to shifts, which otherwise would have never entered his mind, but that still his posts had been taken and his territory laid waste, so that around him there was nothing but desolation. I observed that it did not surprize me to hear that Vazeer Mohammed's administration was subject to difficulties. That of late years he had collected the Pindaries of Malwa and given them a residence within his territories, and that as he could not subsist them, he allowed them to ravage the districts of his neighbours. That not content with a system of proceeding so blameable, he had called in Meer Khan and united with him in an attack upon the Government of Raghojee Bhonsla, who was known to be on a footing of intimate friendship with the Hon'ble Company. That as Meer Khan's demands upon Raghojee Bhonsla were groundless and oppressive, the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General had required him to desist, and retire but that he still persevered in crossing the Nerbudda, and attacking the Bhonsla's Army, and that on this line of conduct, Vazeer Mohammed continued to act in concert with him, assisting him with the whole of his resource, and that during these operations the Pindaries of the two colleagues entered Berar and plundered its inhabitants. That Vazeer Mohammed must have received communication of the letters written by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to Meer Khan, that with such information, he still adhered to that chief, and until the present time had never addressed a line to the British Government to apologize for his conduct, or lessen its resentment. The Vakeel in answer made the most solemn asseverations that his master had taken no part to call in Meer Khan, that on the contrary Meer Khan had threatened to deprive him of the administration and assume it himself, if he, Vazeer Mohammed, did not join with him in his design of attacking the Bhonsla. That in regard to the Pindaries, it had long been usual with the Chiefs of Malwa to employ them. That any connection or intercourse with them was obviously blameable, and that on this point his master could only plead necessity. That Vazeer Mohammed did learn the contents of the letters written by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to Meer Khan, with whom he continued to act merely from compulsion, but that he was certainly wrong in not addressing a letter to the Governor-General explaining the pressure he sustained and apologizing for the part he acted, which though unavoidable, might to some appear to be from choice, but that having lost the goodwill of the Governor-General, he was desirous to show his submission by complying with any requisitions I might be induced to make. In reply I said that the former letters from Vazeer Mohammed I had forwarded for the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General. That I should likewise transmit his present dispatch to be submitted to His Lordship. That there was one point which I thought Vazeer Mohammed should attend to. That while he co-operated with Meer Khan he had made himself master of Choukigarh, and Chainpore Bari, and that it was my opinion that he ought to restore these places immediately to the Nagpur Government. The Vakeel replied that his master would assuredly comply with any recommendation from me. I then told him that I should give him a letter in reply to his master, which he would convey to him without delay. The Vakeel assented, and after receiving the letter returned to Bhopal. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

Letter No. 29.—Colonel Close writes that the Wakil of Vazir Mohammed Khan had handed over to him an order from Vazir Mohammed to his officers at Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh to give up these two places to the Bhonsla's officers.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp, Right bank of Betwa, the 6th February 1810.

I have the honour to acknowledge your dispatches of the 30th and 31st ultimo.

From my late correspondence you would learn, that a Vakeel had come in from Vazeer Mohammed Khan, and that at my desire he had returned to his master charged with a message from me stating, that as Vazeer Mohammed Khan had made himself master of Chinepore Baree and Choukigarh during the late occasion, when Meer Khan was invading the Bhonsla's territories, it was proposed that these places should be restored to the Bhonsla accordingly. The Vakeel returned to Camp on the 4th instant and yesterday presented me with two papers of orders from Vazeer Mohd. Khan addressed to his principal officers at Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh, directing them to restore both agreeably to my desire. I immediately delivered them to Jaikishan Pant, in order that he might transmit them to Jeswant Rao Duttajee who commands the Rajah's force within a few coss of Barree. A report prevailed some time ago that this officer had possessed himself of Baree which now proves to have been unfounded. It may be concluded I think that when he presents the above orders to Vazeer Mohammed's officers, no hesitation will be made in restoring both Chainpore Bari and Choukigarh to the Rajah's Government.

The disposition which the Rajah has adopted for his troops in advance, is not likely to succeed, I think, to the extent which he expects. Jeswant Rao Duttajee will scarcely be able to do more than keep possession of Chainpore and Choukigarh.

I shall be happy if Sadik Ali Khan joins me with a corps of His Highness's troops.

Letter No. 30.—Close reports that he had nominated an Aumildar of Sironj on behalf of Holkar's Government and complains that Bhonsla's army had not come to his aid and had been starving at Baree owing to want of money.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Seronj, the 12th February 1810.

Yesterday I received an express from Mr. Edmonstone via Nagpur dated the 25th ultimo. It gives me a greater latitude than

I possessed before. With the view to add to the distresses of Meer Khan, I have nominated an Amildar of Seronge on behalf of Holkar's Government; whether the plan will ultimately succeed I cannot yet determine, however, it promises fairly. It ought surely to remove all doubt from the Rajah's mind relative to the purity and disinterestedness of our intentions in supporting his cause. I am grieved to say, that notwithstanding His Highness's promises that his Army should co-operate with me, I have not heard a word of Sadik Ali's progress, and what is worse or at least bad is that Jeswant Rao Duttajee's Army at Barree is absolutely starving. This Army assisted with some pay, should now be at Bassoda, or on the line between that place and Chainpore Barree. In not paying and sending forward his troops, His Highness is shamefully inattentive to his interests.

Letter No. 31.—In this letter Close gives a brief history of Sironj, as to whom it had belonged in the past. How Meer Khan has been behaving and Vazir Mohammed withholding the transfer of Choukigarh are alluded to.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Sirwah, the 27th February 1810.

A statement of Meer Khan's troops forms an enclosure.

I have the honour to enclose an Akhbar lately received from Meer Khan's Camp. The quarrel between the Pindary chiefs may be attributed to their necessities. Meer Khan cannot remain long in one place from want of subsistence and he seems to have passed Ujjain taking the direction of Mahipalpore.

A short time since it appeared doubtful, whether, Seronge should be considered to belong to Holkar or Sindhia. On my arrival at Seronge therefore I caused particular enquiry to be made on the point, of the principal of the province and after some delay obtained a statement taken from his records, a copy of which with a translation, I have the honour to enclose for the notice of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, a detailed account of Sher Khan's expedition to the eastern side of Malwa as given in most of the Persian Histories of that period. His siege of Raisseen which ended in its reduction, is particularly described, and on the fall of this place, Seronge must have been subjected to his authority and have afterwards continued as an imperial tenure. Although Seronge has often changed masters, it appears to have come regularly under the authority of the Peshwa Baji Rao and to have been subsequently granted by the Poona Government to Tukoji Holkar, Jeswant Rao Holkar's ancestor. When Luckwa Dada seized on Seronge he acted for himself having previously separated from Sindhia's Government and although Serjee Rao Ghatgay afterwards laid hold of the province he does not seem to have taken the step on any ground of right. Holkar however soon received possession of the province, conferring it on Meer Khan. Holkar's claims to the province therefore appear unquestionably to be best founded. I have already had occasion to observe that Seronge is an open town. In the centre of it is a square enclosure in which the Amildar has usually resided.

Its.........may contain about 2,000 square yards. The wall is low and decayed that it might be forced by a 3 pr. It might be strengthened so as to make it capable of some resistance, were it not that it is commanded by an eminence which hangs over the town.

From this description His Lordship will perceive that Seronge is not only unfortified, but is incapable of being made a secure or convenient post.

The annual revenue of Seronge is as formerly estimated at nearly 3 lacks of rupees. For many years it has not yielded more than a lac and a half.

The force which accompanied Meer Khan to Seronge on his retreat from the Nerbudda is detailed in a paper conveyed herein. A body of horse consisting of some thousands is said to serve as an escort to his baggage, but they are probably so ill-mounted as to be useless in the field. Of the 12 guns it would appear that four or five were taken by him at Jabalpur, since Mohammed Shah Khan left Seronge no large proportion of ordnance or stores has been collected there.

The general idea at Seronge is that the Pindaries who frequent the Nerbudda are very numerous. Enclosed is an account of the numbers under the principal Jamindary taken down from a Pindary belonging to Dost Mohammed, who was taken prisoner by the Mysore horse, considered as pretty correct. Whatever the real number of these Pindaries may be they have shown themselves particularly shy of this force. Not more than 10 or 12 have been seen at a time, and since two or three of them have been taken prisoners not one has been heard of. No body of them has been known to rendezvous at any spot less distant from us than three or four marches.

The country immediately to the eastward and southward of Seronge is subject to various authorities being held principally by the Saugor Chief, the Zamindar of Mullargarh, the Nabob of Koorwye, Raghojee Bhonsla, Sindhia, and Vazeer Mohammed of Bhopal. The whole of these districts are open to the ravages of any invader, and when not disturbed from abroad the different local authorities frequently enterprize on each other. The Pindaries subsist themselves in a great degree in these districts, and contributions have been levied on these by Meer Khan who in some instances laid waste whole Talook.

When I crossed the Nerbudda I thought that the Rajah of Nagpur might be induced to accept his Lordship's very liberal overtures but as he has decidedly rejected them no means seem to be left to the British Government by which to strengthen His Highness's frontier.

A British force established at Jabalpur would be sufficient for the end proposed, and had circumstances been such under an alliance with the Rajah as to have led to the capture of Bhopal, the establishment of a British force at that place instead of Jabalpore would have soon compelled the Pindaries to abandon their haunts on the Nerbudda and made Seronge of little avail to Meer Khan, and besides placed the districts before enumerated on a state of security.

I shall defer offering an opinion on the expediency or inexpediency of assisting Sadik Ali Khan in any views he may entertain against Bhopal until I have an interview with him. The orders for the restitution of Chowkigarh which I obtained from Vazeer Mohammed have not taken effect, having been rejected by the Killedar on some pretext which I have not yet ascertained, but I apprehend that Vazeer Mohammed is secretly resolved not to restore the place, unless some arrangement suitable to his interests, shall be previously adjusted, between him and the Rajah of Nagpur. Sadik Ali Khan left Hoshangabad some days since on his way to this Camp, and will arrive in the course of this day.

Statement of Meer Khan's troops on his arrival at Seronge.

	Infantry	Guns
Two Battalions joint strength	500	12
	Cavalry.	
Amir Khan from Khal Rampoorah	200	..
The son of Akber Khan	100	..
Tooree Baz Khan	150	..
Mohammed Syed Khan Rampoora and Sarwar Khan.	200	..
Mohammed Syed Khan—Afzal Ghuria	200	..
Bukshi Gowardhan Lal	150	..
Wahid Khan	150	..
Khuda Buksh Khan and Meer Khan	1,200	..
Sunned Khan	100	..
Sherandaz Khan Afridee	50	
Khair Mohammed Khan and Huyar Mohammed Khan.	500	..
Sheerah Pir Buksh	200	..
Himmat Khan's Pagah	100	..
Abdulla Khan	150	..
Under several petty leaders	5 0	..
Total	4,000	..

A true translation.

B. CLOSE. COLONEL.

Letter No. 32.—This is an important letter in which the causes of stopping further military operations in Malwa are clearly explained. It throws light on the attitude and intention of British Government in respect of Malwa and the Chiefs in that part of the country.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Fort St. George, the 25th February 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 12th instant in reply to the communications contained in my letter of the 30th ultimo and to signify to you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entirely approves your intention of pursuing your march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from Raja Raghojee Bhonsla's frontier districts of Chainpore Bari and Chowkigarh. To dispossess the enemy of the places which he may have wrested from the dominions of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, necessarily forms a part of the original object of assembling our forces. I am further directed to convey to you the following observations having reference to those contained in your dispatch.

2. The consideration which principally induced the Governor-General to discourage the extension of our Military operations as far as Seronge, was (as stated in my letter of the 30th ultimo) the apprehension of its involving us too deeply in the affairs of the interior of Hindustan. His Lordship would have been happy if you had considered the arguments in support of the justice of that apprehension, to have been stated with a view to obtain the benefit of your opinion, regarding the assumed fact that, such an extension of the military operations would probably produce the consequences which it was so much the desire of the Governor-General to avoid.

3. The communication which I have had the honour to convey to you under authority of the Governor-General has uniformly recommended the prosecution of active measures for the purpose of dislodging the force of Amir Khan from its menacing position on the frontier of the Rajah's possession, and if possible of attacking and dispersing it, and His Lordship by his instructions of the 30th ultimo intended that no other limitation should be imposed on those measures, than such as was necessary to avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of being involved in the interests and concerns of the states and chiefs of Malwa, of extending the objects of the actual warfare, of entering in short upon a system of proceedings, which by their effect upon the views or apprehensions of others, might lead to consequences far beyond the scope of His Lordship's views as described in those instructions.

4. As far as the credit of the British Government is concerned, it did not appear to His Lordship to be in any degree endangered by this proposed limitation; on the contrary, His Lordship was disposed to think that having originally declared the sole object of the assembling of our forces to be to defeat the designs of Amir Khan against the dominions of the Raghojee Bhonsla; when that object should have been attained by the advance of our troops compelling Ameer Khan's retreat, and arrangements calculated to prevent the return of the danger which our exertions had averted should have been subsequently formed, our credit would have been maintained as it respected the reputation of our arms, and augmented as connected with the justice and moderation of our views, and with the sincerity of our declarations.

5. Another consideration which discouraged the conquest of Seronge or the neighbouring territories, was the difficulty of disposing of them. His Lordship foresaw great inconvenience and probable future evil from their being disposed of, in any manner under the security of our guarantee and without that guarantee, to transfer them to Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, in other respects the most desirable mode of disposing of them would be nugatory. Upon this question His Lordship would be happy to receive the communication of your opinion with reference to the event of Seronge or its adjacent territories coming into our possession.

6. The Governor-General fully appreciates the advantage of depriving Amir Khan of the depot and point of support which Seronge affords him and of the arms, ordnance and stores which it is supposed to contain, and would entirely approve the pursuit of his force to that place or into the territory of Bhopal, with the expectation of overtaking and dispersing it. But if the prosecution of the siege of Seronge and the occupation of the adjacent country and the dispossession of the Nabob of Bhopal should lead us into that extended range of protracted military operations; of political controversies and of commixture in the complicated and conflicting interests and concerns of that distracted region. His Lordship would desire if possible to abstain from engaging in such an enterprize. If there is no hazard of these consequences His Lordship would consider as highly politic and advisable the employment of every exertion for the disgrace, defeat and destruction of the forces of Ameer Khan, by pursuing him to those places of refuge where by an accession of resources he might be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity of resuming the prosecution of his ambitious designs.

7. In directing the communication of these observations, it is the object of the Governor-General distinctly to explain to you what he is anxious both to avoid and to attain, leaving the rest to your distinguished ability and judgment, on which His Lordship reposes the most implicit confidence and desiring not so much to restrain as to afford a latitude to the exercise of your discretion, with relation to the points which form the subject of this despatch.

8. I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your further dispatches of the dates noted in the margin.

Letter No. 33.—In this letter Close narrates his discussions with Sadik Ali Khan, who visited him in his Camp. Close points out that since Vazeer Mohammed had refused to part with Choukigarh he was marching to recover it for the Bhonsla. He further suggests that Bhopal might be conquered and handed over to the Bhonsla.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Soomari, the 1st March 1810.

After addressing you on the 27th February I had the honour to receive your dispatch dated the 12th of that month. Sadik Ali Khan has arrived in the vicinity of this Camp and he accordingly visited me in the course of the evening. As it was an interview of compliment, nothing passed on business. It was urged however that he should come to my tent slightly attended on the ensuing day. Jaikishan Pant informed of Sadik Ali Khan's approach had gone out to meet him and I now learnt indirectly from Jaikishan Pant that Sadik Ali had no proposition to offer relative to public affairs, but was instructed by the Rajah to pay me great attentions. When he came to my tent on his second visit I found this information to be apparently correct. In conversing with him I adverted to the dangers from which the Rajah's Government had recently escaped, pointed out that for a series of years past His Highness had been constantly at war with the Nabob of Bhopal. That His Highness's endeavours to make a conquest of the Bhopal territory had failed and as neither side had shown a desire to come to a settlement, the consequence was that His Highness's territories were constantly harassed by incursions of the Pindaries, which ended in the late serious invasion by Meer Khan. That in this chiefly the Rajah had not only to sustain the menacing enmity of an ally of Vazeer Mohammed, but the keen resentment of a personal adversary violently bent on revenge. That as Meer Khan had only retired and might return whenever opportunity served, affairs in regard to the Rajah's Government were on the same posture as before the invasion commenced, with this difference only that from the frustration of his designs Meer Khan might in any future attempt be actuated by augmented passion and aggravated feelings of revenge. That Vazeer Mohammed continued in actual hostilities with the Rajah's Government, while Meer Khan only awaited another opportunity to come to his aid, that the danger thus hanging over the Rajah's Government was not limited merely to the Rajah's interests but extended so as to be the cause of inconvenience to the frontier of the Honourable Company's allies, the Nizam and the Peshwa. That from this circumstance the British Government had a right to bear an interest in the conduct of the Rajah's Government respecting its enemies just alluded to and accordingly did hope that His Highness would now adopt a course of measures calculated to prevent a recurrence of those dangers from which his interests had been so happily saved. Sadik Ali affected to speak lightly of Meer Khan and then observed that as the Rajah, his master, had a sincere and firm friend in the British Government, he had nothing to apprehend from any of his enemy. I replied that the British Government had manifested the extreme of friendship towards the Rajah of Nagpur. That it had supported him however at a great sacrifice, at an enormous expense, and that as the insecurity of His Highness's territories exposed the Honourable Company's allies to the inconvenience beforementioned, it could not be unreasonable in the British Government to expect that His Highness would not continue to be so far inattentive to his interests, as still to leave his territories exposed to future attacks from his inveterate adversaries, without suggesting an arrangement for protecting them. Sadik Ali again alluded to the Company's friendship, on which I remarked that to be deserving of friendship, we should be reluctant to form unreasonable expectations from it. That the Rajah had experienced the excess of friendship from the British Government in the steps which it had taken for His Highness's support and in return it only wished His Highness to arrange for the future security of his northern frontier. Sadik Ali said that the Rajah had no object in view which the Honourable Company could not accomplish for him, that with regard to himself, his orders were to wait on me, and act with me to the best of his power. That with respect to the topics of my discourse, he imagined that whatever might have been agitated thereon at the Rajah's Durbar, would have been communicated to me by Mr. Jenkins. Here I observed that it was incumbent on every Government to attend to the welfare of its charge, that the British Government was always studious to protect its territories and guard against future evils, and that it would be scarcely allowable to apprehend that His Highness the Rajah was not influenced by similar principles and inclinations. That the relation of friendship between states when firmly established, should not be permitted to decline, but should if possible be further connected. That for the accomplishment of an object which though of a common nature went immediately to secure the Rajah's interests, His Highness surely would not wish the British Government to act alone. In answer Sadik Ali said that in such a case, he thought there would be no indisposition towards our views. I now gave the discourse a turn and conversed with him about his former operations in the Bhopal territory, and after some time enquired if Vazeer Mohammed had when his fortunes were so low shown any disposition to come to a compromise with the Rajah. He said no, that Vazeer Mohammed though capable and active was only a Grazier, (imputing that he was mean and servile) and that it was impossible to come to an accommodation with him, as no pledge of his faith would influence his conduct. In consequence of further enquiries he told me, that Kinnour Garh on the western side of Bhopal was Vazeer Mohammed's principal place of retreat, that he had not been disposed of it at the period alluded to, that it was convenient for his purpose from being surrounded by a thick jungle, but that the fort might be battered from some adjacent heights. Shortly after the interview terminated.

Throughout the whole of the conversation which took place, I could not discover that Sadik Ali had it in view to prosecute any object at present, besides the recovery of Chokigarh, which Jeswant Rao Duttajee is besieging. From his manner and expressions however it appeared that he would willingly co-operate with this force, for the purpose of dispossessing Vazeer Mohammed and placing the Bhopal territory under the Government of Nagpur.

It will be obvious to His Lordship, that the result of my interview with Sadik Ali is not a direct confirmation of this disposition shown by the Rajah of Nagpur in rejection of His Lordship's overtures as described in Mr. Jenkin's correspondence. It would appear that when Sadik Ali formerly took possession of the town of Bhopal an agreement had previously taken place between Sindhia and the Rajah of Nagpur, that the territory of Bhopal should be equally divided between them, and that its posts should be occupied by their troops jointly. At the town of Bhopal Sindhia's troops mutined, which ended in the evacuation of the town by Sadik Ali, when Vazeer Mohammed recovered all that he had lost except Chowkigarh and Chainpore Bari.

In regard to the points on which His Lordship has done me the honour to require my sentiments, my opinions relative to some of them will be found in my former correspondence. Lieutenant-Colonel Matrindell, in a reference to his instructions, conceived that he was not at liberty to approach to the Betwah. On the 21st ultimo he marched from Kimlassa on his return to Chatterpore.

My proceeding relative to Seronge are already before His Lordship. I do not think that the Rajah of Nagpur would venture to occupy it, and am of opinion that it could not be taken possession of for the Honourable Company with advantage or convenience, unless with an arrangement by which a British force should be established on the northern bank of the Nerbudda or at some neighbouring position.

I cannot entertain much hope that the Rajah of Nagpur will be ever disposed to come to an accommodation with Vazeer Mohammed. Sadik Ali has already spoken plainly on the point, and from what I have heard of Vazeer Mohammed's notions, he conceives that the Nagpur Government has unjustly possessed itself of districts belonging to the Bhopal territory, which it ought to restore and as he is equally at war with Sindhia as with the Rajah of Nagpur, a settlement with the latter only would afford him but little security. Although he gave me an order addressed to his Killedar of Chokigarh, directing him to restore place to the Nagpur Government, it was not obeyed by the Killedar when sent to him by the Nagpur commander. Supposing however that he might be prevailed on to make some sacrifice by way of retribution to the Nagpur Government, His Highness Raghojee Bhonsla might spin out the negotiation to any length especially as I could only conduct it through Mr. Jenkins, Sadik Ali having by his own account, no authority to confer with me on any public subject connected with his master's Government. The question of attaching Bhopal, with the view of making a conquest of the principality for the Honourable Company, appears to be of great magnitude. Bhopal is separated from Berar by the Nagpur territory and Sindhia certainly considered it as tributary to him exclusively of the arrangement which he adjusted with the Rajah of Nagpur before alluded to. But supposing neither Sindhia nor Raghojee Bhonsla to have any claim to the possession of Bhopal, or the tribute from it, the occupation of it by the Honourable Company, could scarcely fail to excite uneasiness in the mind of Sindhia, whose pretensions it would go to circumscribe. It seems not unlikely however, that such effect might be obviated in great degree by transferring the Bhopal territory when obtained to the Rajah of Nagpur, on condition of his accepting a British Subsidiary Force. That for Bhopal however His Highness would be induced to accept a Subsidiary Force, can scarcely be expected. Mr. Jenkins' correspondence seems to forbid such a hope. The question presents itself then what is to be done to prevent the return of Meer Khan to the Nerbudda, and the inconvenience that would immediately result to the British interests, from his again placing the Nagpur Government, in danger. The natural remedy of a subsidiary force with the Rajah of Nagpur is not practicable and it may be apprehended that to place a subsidiary force with the Chief of Saugor would be equally so. Neither Sindhia nor Holkar possess any fair claims upon him, but he enjoys independence, of which he may be ostentacious as the Rajah of Nagpur. One other case only seems to remain for consideration. The Rajah of Nagpur is anxious to possess Bhopal, and it might be placed under his Government without much delay. The principality might be given to him unconditionally, and the British troops withdrawn when the acquisition should be completed. The co-operation on the service would last for some time and the disinterested nature of the act, added to the use which the Rajah's interests would derive from the presence of the British troops, might reconcile His Highness to the plan of retaining their services. As his interests would be directly benefited by the acquisition, he would probably find means to satisfy Sindhia's pretentions to a share of the concern ; but should it be apprehended that the accomplishment of this scheme would end in Sindhia's obtaining possession of a part of Bhopal, the inconvenience would not be great, as the object of the British Government seems to be that Bhopal should not be held by any party in alliance with Meer Khan.

I am now on my way to Chainpore Bari, where I shall arrive in three or four days and shall not determine to recross the Nerbudda without giving a further consideration to the present state of affairs.

Letter No. 34.—Close writes that he intends withdrawing the British troops in two columns back to Amraoti.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Camp Sunkair, the 10th March 1810.

In my dispatch of the 7th instant I had the honour to intimate that the Bhopal Vakeel having returned to that place, had promised to bring me a reply from his master relative to the negotiation in the space of six days, and that I should not delay to recross the Nerbudda as I could conveniently have further meeting with the Vakeel at Hoshangabad. I accordingly encamped at Baree yesterday, and at this ground this forenoon.

On the 8th instant I addressed a letter to the Quarter Master-General of the Army for the information of Government, intimating my intention to march the troops back to Berar in two columns, one by Shapoor and Multai to Amraoti, and the other by Hoshangabad, Seoni and Burhanpur into the western side of Berar the former column to proceed in two successive divisions. The first division will accordingly cross the Nerbudda tomorrow in order to proceed on its march the following day.

By the time the two columns..........................I, hope to be honoured with the instructions of Government on the disposition which I have submitted in my dispatch to the Quarter Master-General, or on any arrangements which may be resolved on for stationing the troops at Amraoti or other part of the frontier.

Letter No. 35.—Close reports that the Wakeel of Vazeer Mohammed Khan had come to him with proposals for a mediation between the Rajah of Nagpur and Vazeer Mohammed Khan, who was not inclined to negotiate with the Rajah without the mediation of the British, and a guarantee of protection from the British. His report is also important as it suggests the change in the mind of Raghojee regarding the establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Hoshangabad, the 22nd March 1810.

Vazeer Mohammed's Vakeel returned from Bhopal, at the time nearly which he had appointed and at my first interview with him after his return, I discovered that Vazeer Mohammed having no reliance on the faith of the Rajah of Nagpur, would decline to come to an agreement with him unless the several stipulations should be formally guaranteed by the British Government.

I discoursed with the Vakeel for some time, explaining to him that the guarantee of the British Government to the proposed accommodation, was never in contemplation. He said that Vazeer Mohammed had always relied on the justice and clemency of the British Government that he was unable to expel the Pindaries ; that it was from necessity alone that he acted with Meer Khan ; that Sindhia had sold the Bhopal Government to Raghojee Bhonsla; that were Vazeer Mohammed to stipulate with the latter, without the guarantee of the Honourable Company he would stipulate only for his ruin.

That were he to conclude an agreement with the Rajah of Nagpur, of a nature both offensive and defensive, with a view to have the Rajah's aid against the Pindaries, and the hostile attempts of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, still the guarantee of the British Government would be indispensable; that protected by the guarantee he would be free from apprehension and secure, the Nagpur Government would enjoy tranquillity and safety, and the districts of north sides recover from their present......................condition; but that without the guarantee the benefit would be solely on the side of the Rajah who would pursue old designs, and if necessary again call in the aid of Dowlat Rao Sindhia. Finding that the guarantee was considered by Vazeer Mohammed as a................ I resolved that the reply brought by the Bhopal Vakeel should be stated to Sadik Ali Khan, in order that the mediation should cease. The Vakeel, Sadik Ali and Jaikishan Pant accordingly met at my tent yesterday evening. In stating Vazeer Mohammed's reply to the three articles proposed, the Vakeel made it appear, that in his master's opinion an agreement between him and the Rajah of Nagpur would be naturally useful, unless it should be so liberal as to promise the restitution of Baree and other districts, be of a nature defensive and offensive, and be supported by the guarantee of the

British Government. Sadik Ali objected to the proposition for making the terms of the accomodation so extensive; said that should it take place on the ground proposed, and a happy intercourse between the two Governments be the consequence, further articles might in time be added for the advantage of both sides. I observed that although I was prepared to......................any arrangement which should be concluded I could not possibly grant the guarantee of Honourable Company, an act which I had not in contemplation. A conversation now ensued between Sadik Ali and the Vakeel which had no desirable issue, and at length I told the Vakeel, that as Vazeer Mohammed had withheld his assent from the three articles proposed, requiring that the agreement should not only be made more extensive, but be supported by the guarantee of the Honourable Company, which could not be granted, I found he would accordingly give intimation to his master, who would consider himself as continuing under the displeasure of the British Government according to the explanation which I had made when the negotiation commenced. Here the Vakeel went into a justification of his master's demands, stating that his aim was only to have provoked, and be placed in the possibility of recovering under just engagement what from want of strength, he had unfortunately lost. I judged it unnecessary to make any reply, and the meeting broke up. After the Vakeel had retired, Sadik Ali secured to regret, that the part I took to effect and told him, that although I was obliged to.........................the mediation, still it was open to the Rajah to come to such an accommodation with the Bhopal Government, as he should judge consistent with his interests. I formerly adverted to considerations which induced me to think that any course of proceeding calculated to..........................Vazeer Mohammed into a compliance with certain demands, as an atonment for his past conduct, would ultimately fail of effecting him under the impression, that he continues to sustain the displeasure of Government.

Letter No. 36.—The letter reports the excursions of the Pindaries into the dominions of the Nizam and the Peshwa. They went far into Hyderabad territories, crossed the Godavari and then returned through Peshwa's dominions.

FROM—HENERY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, the 17th November 1810.

1. A body of Pindaries, amounting to about five thousand, said to belong to Karim Khan and Seetoo Dhurras, have lately made an irruption into the Peshwa's territories. They came from the direction of Burhanpur, crossed the Purna at Edlabad, and passing

along the foot of the hills near Ajanta, penetrated by the Kasseibarry Ghat, which is farther to the westward. They then separated into different parties, and spread themselves over the surrounding country, where they met with nothing either to repel or to reside. But the main body passed the Godavary at Fooltumba, and penetrated with astonishing rapidity as far as Sangamner, an open town in the charge of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar, not more than seventy miles from Poona in a N. N. E. direction. They plundered the town and then moved with the same rapidity as before, to the north-west as far as Nasik, but the town being occupied by a small party of the Peshwa's Horse they did not enter it, but moved off as precipitately as they came, plundering every side of them, in the direction of Chandur and retired through one of the Ghats into Chandore range of hills. They are supposed to have recrossed the Tapty immediately.

2. A considerable body of the Pindaries and about five or six thousand of Meer Khan's and Shripat Ram's troops, are reported to have collected between the Nerbudda and the Tapty. The settlement of Holkar's districts in Khandesh is assigned as the professed reason for the advance of Meer Khan's and Shripat Ram's troops so far towards the southward.

3. When the accounts of the irruption of the Pindaries reached Poona, it was too late to think of taking any steps to defend the country from their excesses. But I pressed the Peshwa and the Minister, as I have done over and over again before, to order a sufficient body of troops, both of their own, and of the Jagheerdars, whose districts are in that direction, to move towards the N. W. frontier, and to keep them permanently stationed there to defend it. The necessity of this measure was too obvious at the moment if any objection to be made to it, and the Sindhia therefore immediately desired the..........................to detach a body of his own troops under Trimbakjee Danglia and to order Balloba the Vinchoor Jagirdar's Diwan Madhoo Rao Rastiah, and the head of Poorunderee family all of whose districts have now been plundered by the Pindaries to send forward as many of their troops as they could collect. But although these orders were given a fortnight ago the only apparent step that has yet been taken towards fulfilling them, on the part either of the Minister or of the Jaghirdar, is the pitching of three or four small tents outside the city.

4. The Peshwa himself............especially the Minister, seem to be quite indifferent to the state of those districts, which being granted out in Surrunjamee or Jagheer, produce no immediate revenue in money to the Prince. For their own personal safety and for the protection of the Government against all serious aggression, they repose in the most indolent security upon us. As to the Jagheerdars themselves so obstinately blind are they to their own most essential interests, and so great is their insensibility to dangers which do not immediately stare them in the face, that I am persuaded they had at any time rather allow their country to be plundered

of a lack of rupees than lay out ten thousand to defend it against the plunderers. Notwithstanding the importance of the Peshwa's districts in Khandesh and the degree in which their local situation exposes them to the incursions of the Pindaries and notwithstanding the urgency with which the Peshwa has constantly been pressed by the Resident to maintain a force adequate to their defence, I really believe that at this time a thousand horse, and perhaps, two thousand foot which are generally employed against the Bheels, the utmost extent of the troops of every description that either the Peshwa or the Jagirdars have in this portion of Khandesh.

5. I understand by a letter which I have lately received from Mr. Cole, that object of the mission on the part of the Rajah of Kolhapore to Mysore which was mentioned by me in the seventh and six following paragraphs of my address to your Lordship No. 18, dated the 15th of October, was to obtain the co-operation not of the Mysore but of the Company's Government, and that Hanumant Rao finding nothing could be accomplished towards the object of his mission at Mysore had proceeded to Madras, and had again passed Mysore in the latter end of October on his return from Madras towards Kolhapore.

6. Chintaman Rao lately went from Sanglee with about a thousand horse to a place called Inchulcarroonjee about twenty miles from Sanglee and rather less from Kolhapore, with the intention of meeting the Rajah. But Appa Desai hearing of his design, and knowing that the chief object of the projected arrangements between the Rajah and Chintaman Rao was to attack him, moved immediately with a respectable force from Nipaune to Hoopuree and threw himself between Chintaman Rao and Kolhapore. Chintaman Rao remained several days at Inchulcarroongee but finding that Appa Desai has resolved to prevent his advancing farther he retired to Sanglee, and Appa Desai also has returned to his usual place of residence at Nipaunee.

7. Since I last had the honour to address your Lordship, His Highness the Peshwa has given his son the name of Vahmun Rao, the name taken by Vishnu in his fifth incarnation of the....... The Marhatta's even the highest classes of them, are quite as superstitious as the natives of the other parts of India in their method of fixing the names of their children. On the eighteenth day after the birth of the child, which was pronounced by the astrologers to be the most auspicious that occurred, a number of small papers on each of which was written the name of a Hindu deity, were thrown promiscuously in front of the Idols, before which the Peshwa generally performs his devotions and a child was desired to select one from among them. The child selected the paper on which Vahmun Rao was written and that name therefore was immediately fixed on for the young Prince.

8. The money given away in charity and presents by the Peshwa on this occasion, amounts, I understand to about seven and eight lacs of rupees, and...............thousand five hundred maunds

of sugar have been distributed to all the inhabitants of Poona and the different people those come in from the neighbouring countries as well as the rich. The Minister's nephew, adopted son, Ana Dhumderee, Madhoo Rao Rastiah and a few other persons selected by the Peshwa went through the city in different directions with elephants loaded with sugar, and at every house, that they passed, however obscure or miserable it might be, left a pound of sugar with Peshwa's name and half a pound in the Minister's. All persons of distinction had sugar sent to them in quantities proportionate to their rank. On the day I called upon the Peshwa to congratulate him he insisted upon having two trays of sugar immediately set before me in his presence although the proper time for observing that form had not yet arrived, in order as he said, that I might be the first person to whom the compliment was paid. And he afterwards sent Krishnajee Mankeshwar, and the Minister sent his own adopted son, to the Residency with trays of sugar from each of them, at the time the general distribution was going on in the city.

9. The Peshwa has not yet fixed a day for receiving the presents that are to be made to him. I find, upon collecting the different articles of jewelery and cloth which will be necessary, that in addition to a few of those already in store, which are of a description fit to be used upon such occasions, the actual expense in.........presents for the Pehwa himself, his two wives, and the young Prince will hardly exceed eighteen thousand rupees.

10. When Krishnajee Mankeshwar and the Minister's adopted son came to the Residency, it was necessary for me to make presents to them. I gave the former a Jugha, a Surpeich, string of pearls a pair of shawls and a set of clothes and the latter a surpanch, a pair of shawls and a set of clothes. But all those articles, jewels, as well as clothes I took out of the public stores.

11. I lately made an excursion for a few days in the country immediately round Poona, and was received and treated every where with the greatest respect and attention. Among other places, I went to Purander, which is considered, I believe, especially by the natives themselves, to be the strongest hill fort in this part of the country, and notwithstanding the dislike they generally have of showing the inside of their forts to us, I was admitted, by the Peshwa's particular order, into the innermost part of Purander, and shown over all the works. When I left the fort the officer in charge of it, presented me with a pair of shawls and a dress and each of the gentlemen who accompanied me with a set of clothes.

12. The Peshwa complained to me that his brother Chimnajee Appa had gone on a religious excursion to Dowree and Neemgaon, two small places of the bank of the Bhima River without paying him the proper compliments, without giving him any previous notice of his intention. Chimnajee Appa returned to Poona after being absent for a few days. It is by occasional marks of disrespect and inattention of the.........which, whenever they occur on the

Chimnajee Appa's part, are studiously aggravated by the Minister, that the disagreement between the Peshwa and his brother is irritated and kept up and it happens most unfortunately that the instances however trifling in themselves constitute together one of the occasions of all others in which, although it is very easy for an enemy to do a great deal of harm but difficult for a friend to do any good.

Letter No. 37.—The letter reports that a body of Pindaries has crossed the Nerbudda and appeared near Hinganghat. This had led to certain precautions being taken for the protection of Nagpur.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL H. CONRAN, COMMANDING AT JALNA.

Nagpur, the 21st November 1810.

Intelligence has been received by the Rajah that a fresh body of Pindaries has lately crossed the Nerbudda at Handia and is expected to take the route of Berar.

The party which has been lately plundering in this neighbourhood was last heard of about Hinganghat about 24 coss south of Nagpur whether they proceeded after making the circuit. I before described, the Rajah's troops have been ineffectually sent out in different bodies to pursue them and are now returned to Nagpur. A force however of about 1,400 horse and 200 Infantry with 6 guns has been fixed at Patansaongi, 8 Coss to the Northward of this city and another body of horse at Lodeekhera about 12 coss beyond that place. Orders have also been issued to the different Zamindars and others who have the charge of stopping the passes in the hills, by which the Pindaries can penetrate in this direction, to be more careful in future; however experience has shown that this mode of defence is not to be depended on.

Letter No. 38.—This report from an "Akbar" forms an enclosure to the Resident's letter. The "Akbar" reports the rapid movements of the Pindaries.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL H. CONRAN, COMMANDING AT JALNA.

Nagpur, the 22nd November 1810.

Kalfa Dhurra of the Sindhia Shahee and Holkar Shahee Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateerghat set out in the direction of Burhanpore. These Pindaries did not go to Burhanpore, but entering Berar, they plundered Teewasgaon and Ner, burnt a few houses at Parseoni and passing the Berolee Ghat

कै. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार,
ग्रंथ संग्रह

near Betul, came, and encamped at Temlhagaon two coss from Bhadegaon, near Saoligarh. Jairam Pant with Bhadu Gond, Roopsah Thakur and Chandra Shah Thakur came upon them unawares retook from them two elephants and 25 horses which they had carried off from Kellode and made one Pindary prisoner. With the exception of the elephants and horses all plunder was left to the Captors, and those of the Pindaries whose horses were fresh, recrossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateer Ghat that night.

A second time a party of Pindaries crossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateer Ghat, and proceeding by the route of Puthurwara, Sohagpur, and Teegaon, plundered Mohpa and Dhapewara. These returning by Berolee Ghat and Putharwara recrossed the Nerbudda at the Bharkus Ghat three coss from Babuee, and went to their chaoni at Katephora, Jeewegaon and Kunoj in the neighbourhood of Goonergurh.

The Dhurra of Karim's son is at Bhopal. Their horses are all ready shod. Dost Mohammed Pindary is at Geearuspore between Bhilsa and Seronje. Jeswant Rao Duttajee was encamped at Ramgarh but has moved to Kisanpore. Baba Seik (an auxilliary of Vazeer Mohammed Khan and the Pindaries) is at Shoragaon on this side of Patgarh Barra and Chota Ramjan Pindaries are encamped at Gopalpore on this side of Setwas and five coss north of the Nerbudda, which they were about to cross.

Letter No. 39.—The letter intimates that a body of Pindaries 6000 strong had appeared at Betul and some had even plundered a place 4 coss from Nagpur.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING AT JALNA.

Nagpur, the 15th/16th December 1810.

I this morning received a letter from my newswriter at Betul stating that a body of Pindaries, said to be 6000 in number had appeared in that neighbourhood; and people have just come in from Tuekia, a place about 4 coss from hence on the road to Amraoti who mention their having plundered that place and their having proceeded in a South Westerly direction.

It is possible that this body may cross the Wardha into Berar perhaps about Nachangaon.

P. S.—This letter should have been dispatched yesterday, but that the Dak road was beset by Pindaries. These freebooters seem to be at present down in great number, and are bolder than ever in their approaches to the city.

A party from my escort went out yesterday afternoon to recover an elephant which the Pindaries had carried away. The party was successful in the object after a pursuit of about 20 miles, and besides, killed two Pindaries and took one prisoner bringing in, likewise, three horses.

Letter No. 40.—The letter describes the route by which Nana Sahib was to go to Allahabad.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BANDA.

Nagpur, the 12th January 1811.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 24th ultimo and lose no time in acquainting you that I have just had an official communication from the Durbar informing me that Nana Sahib will proceed by Jabbulpore as originally intended and not by Ratanpore, as I was given to understand by his Highness's manager.

I paid His Highness a farewell visit yesterday, and explained to him and the Rajah the contents of your letter. They both expressed themselves much gratified by your attention and particularly pleased with the deputation of a person on your part to Jabbulpore and your intention to visit Nana Sahib.

Nana Sahib marches I believe certainly on Monday next the 14th instant.

I propose to send a duplicate of this letter to Salamat Ali to be forwarded direct, and I shall at the same time inform him of Nana Sahib's route being fixed, to provide for the possible case of his receiving counter orders from you in consequence of my last communication.

Letter No. 41.—The letter refers to reports about the "assignment of a tract of country in the vicinity of Nizam's frontier to the Pindaries on condition of their abstaining from plundering and molesting the territories of the Rajah". He mentions that a similar arrangement had been made to persuade Karim Khan and Cheetoo to refrain from their loot and devastation of the country of the Rajah, but to no useful purpose.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—C. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, the 9th March 1811.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 26th ultimo.

The intelligence therein stated to have been received by the Government of Hyderabad relative to the assignment of a tract of country in the vicinity of the Nizam's frontier to the Pindaries, on the condition of their abstaining from plundering and molesting the territories of the Rajah, seems to be not without foundation. On a former occasion it is probably not unknown to you, a similar assignment was made of the districts of Singpore, Babee and others in the vicinity of Hoshangabad on this side of the Nerbudda to one of the Pindary Chieftains on the occasion of the seizure of Karim and Seetoo by Sindhia and in consequence of the inefficacy of the arrangement to the purpose intended this Government took the opportunity of resuming.

During the invasion of Meer Khan, negotiations were again commenced with the Pindary Chiefs, known by the names of Burra and Chitranjan for the restoration of these places to their authority but nothing was decided. These chiefs however received some pecuniary advances from the Rajah both then and since, which have in a great measure prevented them with their brethren in their incursions in this quarter; and a Vakil has occasionally resided on their part at Nagpur.

The present Vakeel named Khan Mohammed came here shortly after the formidable irruption which took place in these territories in December last, and I understand that through his agency a negotiation has been opened with Karim relative to the assignment of the districts in question to that predatory chief jointly with the others. The only point of difference seems to be the extent of the new assignment, which, as it is intended include a greater number of interests amongst the Pindaries, is naturally expected by them to be more ample than formerly and it is expected that a Vakeel from Karim will shortly proceed hitherto represent more fully the interests of his master.

Considering the late application of the Rajah for a British force to be stationed in his territories, it is natural to conclude that the present negotiations on the part of this Court are merely of a temporizing nature and that their being brought to a conclusion will depend upon the success or failure of that application, of which the principal object no doubt is to secure the Rajah's dominions from the incursions of the Pindaries. Should the Rajah not succeed in his application, I apprehend that his dread of those freebooters, who will become more formidable than ever by the release of their ancient leaders must lead to some arrangement of the nature in question.

Experience has shown that under the present system of his Government the Rajah cannot depend upon his troops for the slightest exertion even to protect his capital from insult and the least resort of weakness is to temporize with dangers which it cannot withstand, and to purchase a transitory security by sacrifices which in the end rather hasten than retard the period of its downfall.

Letter No. 42.—Jenkins reports that the Pindaries had plundered Pownee a place near Nagpur and set fire to a part of it without gaining any plunder. There was a rumour that Karim Khan had crossed the Nerbudda with a large band of Pindaries and threatens to come down on Nagpur. Jenkins therefore required that his escort and their weapons be augmented and a reinforcement from Hyderabad Subsidiary force be sent immediately.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 26th November 1811.

You will probably have heard of the irruption of a body of Pindaries belonging to Karim into these territories, of their near approach to this city and of their actual success in setting fire to one quarter of it, although without gaining any plunder of consequence.

These Pindaries proceeding to the Southward plundered the large town of Powni and other places. They were by the last accounts near the Wardha in the direction of Wunnee Warora, and are not yet apparently returning to the Northward although it is ten days since they made their appearance here. Their number is certainly not less than four thousand.

The Rajah has since received intelligence that Karim himself has crossed the Nerbudda with six or eight thousand more Pindaries, some infantry and rocketmen, and four guns. It is understood that the party now down will form a junction with that and that unless the Rajah makes some arrangement, in time, to pay him off, he will come down to Nagpur.

In anticipation of these occurrences I some time ago suggested to Government the danger to which the British Residency might eventually be exposed, and solicited a temporary augmentation of the escort by a gun or such other reinforcement as might be thought proper. I am in daily expectation of an answer, but as the call may be immediate I have this day written to the Nabob Salabat Khan requesting a reinforcement from him with a gun if he can spare it without danger to the country he has to protect, and one of the objects of this letter is to make you acquainted with this state of circumstances and to request that if you should think yourself authorized to comply with my application you will have the goodness to send such a reinforcement to our escort which consists of two pretty strong companies of Infantry and twenty-five of the Madras body Guard, as you may judge adequate.

Our premises are too extensive to be defended by our present force especially without a gun and with this to secure ourselves against the attacks of infantry we ought to have at least one hundred additional firelocks besides the probability that a formidable appearance would deter the Pindaries from those attempts against us which they might otherwise be emboldened to make.

Another object of my communication to which however I shall briefly allude as from its being of more importance you may not think yourself authorized to act upon it, is the suggestion that Karim may probably continue on this side of the Nerbudda during the greater part of the present season, and that should matters be amicably settled with the Rajah of Berar may require the presence of your force for its protection.

I shall forward a copy of this letter to Mr. Russell, and at the same time I hope you may be able to comply with my request for a reinforcement on your own authority and without the delay of reference you will of course at no distant period receive his instructions applicable to both points of this communication.

Letter No. 43.—Jenkins points out the justification for calling for a reinforcement to augment his own escort and for aiding the Bhonsla in his efforts to drive out the Pindaries if they attacked in large numbers under Karim Khan. The exodus of Karim Khan to territories south of the Nerbudda is due to the Military preparations of the Sindhia. If he attacks Nagpur he is also likely to sweep into Berar. Hence all precautions have to be taken against this possibility.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.
To—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, the 26th November 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Colonel Conran.

The necessity of the moment will, I should hope be considered to justify any call for a reinforcement from the only British Cantonment with any moderate distance, and as the occasion will probably be only temporary, I feel confident that you will find yourself at liberty to confirm my application to Colonel Conran.

My late dispatches will have made you fully acquainted with the state of affairs in this quarter and with the sentiments which the progressive increase of the power of the Pindaries has led me to entertain. My suggestion in consequence of Karim having crossed the Nerbudda with guns and infantry regarding the probability of his continuance to the Southward of that river, and the danger to which Berar would be exposed, is merely noticed to Colonel Conran. Karim is said to have brought his family with him and to have been led to the step in some measures by the military preparations of Sindhia, which I conclude to be those mentioned in the last dispatch to Government, of the Resident at the Court of that Prince. Whether those preparations are or are not directed against the Pindaries, and Mr. Strachey thinks they are not, it is natural that Karim should remove himself from all danger, either of force or treachery particularly when the mode in which he was formerly seized is taken into consideration. As long therefore as Baptiste continues in the vicinity of Raghogarh or Bhopal, Karim may be expected to remain at a distance and on this side of the Nerbudda.

But his first operations as they have commenced against the Rajah will I should conceive be still directed towards this quarter, and if the Rajah does not buy him off with money or territory or as I believe his demand is, with both, he will in all likelihood come down to Nagpur. Whether Karim succeeds in plundering the city or a part of it or extorts money and territory from the Rajah, Berar will be exposed as his next object, and he cannot plunder Nagpur without adding greatly to his reputation, to the numbers of his followers and to his equipments in guns and military stores. At all events the Rajah has at this moment no force ready to meet him in the field and he could only repulse any attack which might be made on his capital.

In any case the followers of Karim if beat off at Nagpur, would seek for indemnification some where else and Berar is the country immediately within their reach.

Although therefore I am aware that Government does not consider the Subsidiary force to be intended to act against Pindaries, (as mere desultory plunderers of course) yet if it appears that a great independent Government like that of the Rajah, cannot oppose an effectual resistance to them even in protecting its capital from insult and perhaps plunder, and if under these circumstances the great force of these plunderers is united under its principal leader and with a proportion of infantry and guns in a situation to invade the territories of our ally I am inclined to think that it will become necessary for us, to co-operate with the troops of that ally in preventing such an invasion. On this subject however, I can only offer my opinion although I conceive that I should have been deficient in duty if I neglected to state the circumstances above described.

Letter No. 44.—Jenkins reports the formidable strength of Cheetoo and Karim Khan and their objective of wresting Garha Mandla from the Bhonsla. Their strength and equipments, and the possibility of their attacking Nagpur had spread panic in Nagpur. The danger for Berar is also suggested.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE AT JALNA.

Nagpur, the 28th November 1811.

Having last night received accounts from my news-writer in Karim's Camp, dated 12 days ago, and from that of Seetoo, of as late a date as six days ago, I deem it proper to make you acquainted with the substance of them.

The Rajah's intelligence, which I communicated in my lettei to your address dated the 26th of Karim having crossed the Nerbudda, seems to have been premature. Seetoo, however, with his followers, said to be about 8,000 horse, 1,000 Infantry and 8 guns (the guns, my Hircarrahs say they counted) is, certainly encamped on the southern bank of the Nerbudda, at Neelee, about 4 coss from Sutwas, which is to the northward of the river. Seetoo has his family with him.

My Hircarrahs left the camp of Karim, at Khyree, about 20 coss North of the Nerbudda, in company with Udajee Naik, who was sent by the Rajah to negotiate. Karim's demands, now under reference to the Rajah are said to be six lacks of Rupees, in cash, and the cession of Garrah Mandla, and to settle the matter in case the Rajah will treat on such a basis, Karim proposed to send a person to Nagpur as his Vakeel. Udajee Naik had returned to Seetoo's Camp, but was afterwards recalled to that of Karim.

The demand of the Pindary Chief, if they are correctly stated, must reduce the Rajah to the necessity and the disgrace of dismembering from his Governments its richest province; or of risking the plunder of his capital, denounced as the alternative. Karim was understood to be on the point of moving down to the Nerbudda, to give weight to his negotiations.

He has, with him, two battalions of Infantry, said to be two thousand strong, disciplined, and commanded by an European of the name of Ball, fourteen guns of different calibres, and six or eight thousand horse, which are independent of the body, still in the Rajah's territories and in Berar they are also said to be independent of many parties of horse and Infantry, scattered over the districts he has usurped.

My writer further describes the most solemn oaths, of fraternity and mutual support, to have been lately exchanged between the chiefs of all the principal parties of the Pindaries, and Karim.

Seetoo had written to Karim that he was about to send a body of his followers to plunder in the Nizam's territories and they were to be joined by a reinforcement from the other great body. I believe the two parties, united, have since taken the direction of Burhanpur.

The alarm in Nagpur is, as you may suppose, very great, and does not appear to be less, in the councils of the Rajah, than elsewhere but it does not lead to the most rational measures of defence. Nothing in the present intelligence although in some respects, different from the former others indeed it is rather calculated to confirm the opinions I have already expressed, relative to the dangerous state of the Rajah's affairs to the mutual risk to Berar, and to the necessity of the British Residency, being early placed in a respectable posture of defence. So to this latter object, I am convinced you will contribute as far as may be in your power

Letter No. 45.—Jenkins reports that the Pindari Chief Karim Khan had "put the Rajah's (Bhonsla's) agent Udajee Naik in irons" on the ground that the latter's correspondence with his master which had been intercepted betrayed a lack of sincerity on the part of the Bhonsla. How the Bhonsla was preparing to resist the attack of Pindaries on Nagpur is described.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 2nd December 1811

Since I last had the honour to address you, the only intelligence from the Nerbudda which has reached Nagpur, mentions that Karim had put the Rajah's Agent, Udajee Naik, in irons, immediately on his return to the Camp. This measure, so hostile to all future negotiation between Karim and the Rajah, is said to have been adopted in consequence of some intercepted letters of Udhajee Naik's correspondence with his master, which indicated an entire want of sincerity on His Highness's part. However this may be, the door to reconciliation would I should think be now completely shut.

The Rajah is preparing for the defence of his capital with renewed activity in consequence of the intelligence above described and is calling in all his troops to meet the impending danger. Batteries are erecting on different points round the town and all the streets are barricading. Should time be given to mature all these preparations, one may hope that the doubtful success of any attempt against the city, besides the fear of our operations should your force advance for the better security of Berar, will deter the Pindary Chief from bringing down infantry and guns. Although he would then, in all probability, endeavour to possess himself of the Rajas's northern territories, which will be completely open to his attacks.

Letter No. 46.—Jenkins thanks the Colonel for sending a reinforcement so readily to him. He further writes about the widespread activities of the Pindaries, as far south as Chanda and their parties spread over the territories south of the Nerbudda. The release of Udhojee Naik from fetters, the possibility of an alliance between the Nawab of Bhopal and Karim Khan, and the withdrawing of forces from distant parts of his dominions by the Bhonsla are the other points of the letter.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 11th December 1811.

I should sooner have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 30th November and returned you my thanks for your ready compliance with my request for a reinforcement, had I received any intelligence of importance to communicate relative to the Pindaries. I have now further had the honour to receive your dispatch of the 4th instant.

Karim by the last account, was still at his former encampment, and Udajee Naik although released from his fetters at the intercession of Seetoo is represented to be kept by Karim as an hostage for the granting of his demands by the Rajah. Those demands it has been confirmed to me by the Rajah's Minister Jeswant Rao Ramchandra extend to the cession of Garrah Mandla, terms impossible for His Highness to accede to, without confessing a degree of weakness incompatible with any kind of resistance to that pradatory chief.

In the meantime the Rajah's country has continued to be overrun by the Pindaries. A part of the large body which came down by Nagpur in the middle of last month, has plundered part of the town of Chanda without the walls, and was four or five days ago on its return to the Northward, near the Wardha about Wunnee Wurroora. As nothing further has been heard of it, it has probably followed the great body through Berar to Burhanpore.

Another party of four or five hundred remained in the neighbourhood of Geerhur and Bissee places not far south of Nagpur until within these few days. Where they are gone, I have not heard.

A third large body said to be five or six thousand encamped at Adegaon near the Nerbudda, in the Jubbulpore direction for five or six days. Parties from it plundered the country about Seoni-Chappara, and the whole were last heard of in Garrah Mandla near Jubbulpore.

My news-writer at Betul mentions a new horde to have been prepared to move from the Nerbudda, on Sunday last but whether in this direction or towards Berar does not yet appear.

An attempt was lately made by a party either of Pindaries, or of the Nabob of Bhopal's horse to cut off some infantry with four guns on their march to join Sadik Ali at Sohagpur. In this they did not succeed. The Bhopal troops with some Infantry and guns are said to be about to cross the Nerbudda near Chainpore Barree, to attack the Rajah's force under Jeswant Rao Duttajee, encamped near the confluence of the Sukkur Nadi with the Nerbudda.

These various operations of the Pindaries and their ally Vazeer Mohammed Khan would seem to show that Karim was not yet resolved to carry into execution his threat of attacking the Rajah in his capital. It may be observed however, that by allowing his followers to supply their immediate necessities by indiscriminate plunder in the first instance, he will be better able to concertrate their exertions when he required them, to that one object. The difficulty of doing this, is no doubt the greatest and almost the only obstacle to the success of any attempt of the kind if Karim seriously intends to make any whilst the Rajah's preparations for defence are still imperfect.

The impression on the Rajah and his Ministers seems to be that such an attempt will be made, and the orders are reiterated to the different forces on the frontier to proceed hither without delay. Excepting however the small force of Anand Rao Dhundeeraj arrived at Pandhurna, the others are still at a distance.

Letter No. 47.—Jenkins reports that parties of Pindaries were at Seoni and that Karim Khan was going to cross the Nerbudda very soon.

From—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

To—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 12th December 1811.

I was this morning favoured with your letter of the 7th instant. In the dispatch which I had yesterday the honour to address to you I mentioned a report to have reached me from Betul of a fresh body of Pindaries being expected to cross the Nerbudda about Sunday last the 8th instant. In the course of the evening I received accounts to the same effect from my news-writer at Seoni and today I have had another report from the latter place dated the 8th which states that Karim himself was expected to have crossed the Nerbudda on that or the following day with the avowed purpose of coming down to Nagpur.

The parties of Seetoo, the Runjans and others are said to be in a league to oppose this step, but the same was believed previously to the last irruption, to which however no resistance was made.

I have not heard whether Karim is supposed to intend bringing down guns and infantry. If he does his movements must necessarily be less rapid, but if he does not, he may reach this neighbourhood in a few days.

I shall send a copy of this letter to Major Custance, who I concluded, will be near Amraoti today and shall keep him informed of anything else I may hear respecting the Pindaries.

I have not yet received any accounts directly from the Camp of Karim.

The same as the above to—

Major Custance, dated 12th.
Henry Russell, dated 12th.
M. Elphinstone, date 13th.
R. Strachey, Esq., dated 16th.
C. T. Metacalfe, dated 16th.

Letter No. 48.—The letter reports the news from Akhbars that Sindhia's troops had been planning an attack on Karim Khan. If this is true Karim Khan cannot cross the Nerbudda to attack Nagpur territories. The extracts from the Akhbars enclosed are interesting.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 13th December 1811.

I have the honour to enclose extracts of Akhbars from Karim's Camp down to the 2nd instant which arrived last night. The Hircarrahs who brought them left the Camp on the 3rd and mention that an incursion towards Nagpur was talked of as about to be made on the return of the different parties from the Southward. A large body from that quarter they say, recrossed the Nerbudda on the 4th with a great deal of plunder.

If it be true that Sindhia's troops as mentioned in the Akhbars are on the point of acting against Karim, it would be difficult to imagine that he can be at liberty either to come down himself or to detach any considerable body of Pindaries to this quarter at the present moment. No safe conclusion can however be come to, until it be seen whether Sindhia's measures are really directed against him and if they are, what course he himself will pursue.

The same as the above to —

(1) H. Russell Esquire, dated the 14th.
(2) M. Elphinstone Esquire, dated the 15th.
(3) R. Strachey and C. T. Metcalfe Esquire, dated the 17th.

Extracts of Akhbars from the Camp of Karim Khan at Khyree

Sunday, 28th Shuval.—Today Quadir Baksh Burrun's son arrived from his excursion towards Nagpur. Besides a good deal of plunder he brought two Hircarrah Camels belonging to Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla.

Sunday, 29th Shuval.—Quadir Buksh brought to the Nawab Karim Khan Sarfarazuddoula, letters from Rajah Raghojee addressed to the Nawab Cheetoo Khan and others and to Udhajee Naik, which contained reasonable matter, in consequence of which Namdar Khan and Mohammed Bux Khan were sent to seize and bring back Udhajee Naik to Camp. Such an alarm prevailed in the camp as is not to be described, and the Nawab seized all the spice in the possession of the Sahukars, and Banias as a fine. On hearing of the approach of Bapoo Sindhia and Jagannath Rao Bapoo with a large force, the Nabob had a consultation with Narainsingh, Sindhia's Vakeel whom he despatched with copies of Rajah Raghojee's letters to Bapoo Sahib and sent a news-writer and Hircarrah with him for intelligence.

Monday, 1st of Zeelqad.—At noon Namdar Khan arrived with Udajee Naik. After showing him his master's letters and venting abuse against the Duckanees, the Nawab confined him under a guard of Mewatees.

Tuesday, 2nd.—Orders were sent to Karim Garh and Shujawalpore, to be circumspect, and ready in case of danger. On hearing that Vazeer Mohammed Khan had put a Pindarrah to death, the Nawab held a consultation, and it was determined to be proper to seek for friendship with Bhopal.

Wednesday, 3rd.—It was determined to send Qadir Bux to Bhopal.

Thursday, 4th.—Qadir Bux set off for Bhopal. News arrived that Meer Khan had written this to Bapoo Sindhia. It would seem that you have had intentions, this is not proper. We Musalmans are all brothers. The Nawab was highly pleased at this.

Friday, 5th.—Fifty infantry were entertained through Nana Bhaskar the Ashteh Wala. A letter arrived from Cheetoo to this purport. Be easy with regard to this quarter and dismiss Udajee Naik.

Saturday, 6th.—Two hundred and fifty Rohillas, Telangas, etc., arrived for service. On hearing that Bapoo Sindhia was near Turanah, and that the Zamindars of Oomutwarra were beginning to revolt the Nawab ordered the battallions to the latter quarter.

Sunday, 7th.—Nawab sent his Palankeen to bring into camp Kadir Sahib a Peerzada from the Deccan, and ordered Udajee Naik to write his demands to Nagpur.

Monday, 8th.—The Nawab was praising Holkar, and disparaging Sindhia and some of his Chiefs Bapoo Sindhia, Ramachandra, Falkeea Fakeerjee Garwa and others in terms too gross to be mentioned. Ramachandra Feelkeea's Vakeel who was present said that this kind of discourse was not proper as Sindhia had services for him to perform, had released him for the purpose of Mirzapore and Bundelkhand, and had demanded from the Company Agra, Mathura, etc., which if he did not get, other means must be pursued. The Nawab said if Sindhia knew his own mind and was to be relied on, I would have done every thing required.

Tuesday, 9th.—Kadir Bux arrived from Bhopal. He said that Vazeer Mohammed was much displeased with Karim, but had now written that if Bapoo Sindhia, Juggoo Bapoo and Baptiste come against him he might without apprehension send his family and baggage of Bhopal. The Pirzada this day arrived. Bhuwani the Jemadar of Hircarrahs, represented that 50 thousand horse and infantry had been appointed by Sindhia to chastize Karim and had arrived near Shujawalpore.

Wednesday, 10th.—The Nawab visited the Peerzada and presented him with a valuable Khillat. Imam Bux, Sahib Khan and other Jemadars represented that they were all firmly attached to the Nawab, but that Cheetoo was treacherous, that he made his peace with Sindhia through Meena Bai, and had attained territory from Rajah Raghojee. A pair of Hircarrahs brought a letter from Heeroo Pindarah to this effect. March towards Ketchwara. Aroome and other five Mahals are allotted as your Jaidad. If you delay, troops will be sent against you. An Arzee arrived from Ratankuwar, and others mentioning that they were at Shujawalpore with the three battalions. A reply was sent directing them to proceed to the Oomutwarree.

Thursday, 11th.—The Nawab visited the Peerzada, and had a consultation with him and the principal Jemadars. Udhojee Naik was also sent for and presented a Nazar to the Peerzada. The Nawab at this moment asked the Peerzada to give him his hand as a token of his protection. The latter replied that he had urged Cheetoo and Ramjan Khan to unite with Karim and they had promised to do so. The Peerzada then wrote letters to those chiefs, and prevailed on Sahib Khan and Imam Bux to go to bring them. He also wrote to Dost Mohammed and it is reported that he aslo will come. A letter was then written by the Nawab to Heeroo promising that when the parties which were to the Southward returned he would according to the Maharajah's orders proceed towards the Ketcheewarra. Since the news has been received of Sindhia's troops proceeding against him Nabab has been thinking of sending troops to cut off their supplies and foraging parties, and willl proceed to attack them when his whole force is collected. The Zamindars of Omutwarra and Shujawalpore and other places belonging to the Nabob are becoming refractory.

Friday, 12th.—Letters arrived from Sindhia's Vakeel Narain Singh and the news-writer who went to the camp of Bapoo Sindhia, mentioning that the whole of his Army was encamped at Teraneh, and that they had settled all matters in the Nawab's favour but the Hircarrahs represented that the Army would certainly march to Shujawalpore on the arrival of Jeshwant Rao Bhau. A letter arrived from Cheetoo respecting Udhajee Naik's release. The Nawab returned an answer and sent copies of Rajah Raghojee's intercepted letters.

Saturday, the 13th.—A Sooqqu from Maharajah Sindhia and letter from Heeru arrived. The contents were, you have not done well in proceeding towards the Nerbudda contrary to the pleasure of the Sirkar. Now however immediately towards Raghogarh.

Sunday, the 14th.—The Nawab wrote letters in answer to Sindhia and Jaggoo Bapoo promising to march, immediately on the return of his parties from the Southward, towards Raghogarh. He talked with his Jemadars about the forces of Sindhia, and the Peshwa with 2 English battalions, coming against him, and sent letters to Cheetoo and Ranjan and others from himself and the Peerzada, exhorting them to join with him.

Monday, the 15th Zeelqad or 2nd December.—Fresh letters arrived from Heeroo to hasten the Nawab's march to Raghograh, with promises that immediately on his arrival there, the territory agreed on should be given up to him, besides other advantages of Moolkgiri. With the contents of these letters the Nawab was much pleased.

True extracts.

R. JENKINS, Resident.

Letter No. 49.—It is only a covering letter to the copies of Akhbars containing the news items about the Pindari Leaders, the Nawab of Bhopal and the Sindhia.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 18th December 1811.

I was yesterday honoured with your dispatch of the 12th instant. You will have subsequently received my letters of the 11th, 12th and 13th instant conveying to you all the intelligence in my possesion relative to the Pindaries. I have now the pleasure to forward you two papers containing extracts of my latest Akhbars and the substance of a letter from my news-writer in Karim's Camp, dated the 6th instant.

The same as the above to:—

1. H. Russell, Esquire, dated 19th.
2. M. Elphinstone, Esquire, dated 20th.
3. R. Strachey, Esquire, dated 20th.
4. C. T. Metcalfe, Esquire, dated 21st.

Substance of a letter from my news-writer in Karim's Camp at Khyree, dated Friday the 6th December.

A Shooqqu from Sindhia has arrived directing the Nawab to march towards Raghogarh, and letters from Heeroo are continually received to the same effect. Juggoo Bapoo also writes from Turaneh on this subject, and calling upon the Nawab to evacuate Shujawalpore and other places. From this quarter excuses have been hitherto written that the Nawab is waiting for the return of the parties from the Southward. These have now all come in and it remains to be seen what will follow.

I hear that Jeswant Rao Bhau has been sent to this quarter with his forces and that Vazeer Mohammed Khan in obedience to Sindhia's orders had agreed to join Abajee Punt who has three of the Maharaja's Battalions with him. Vazeer Mohammed however pretends friendship for the Nawab Karim and urges him to obey Sindhia's orders, but as a burnt child dreads the fire, Karim does not think proper to go to Raghogarh. Although the Rajah of Kotta also recommends him to go, he evades it by various and contradictory excuses.

Hearing that a force of English Battalions and of the Peshwa's troops, are coming against him, he is cultivating the friendship of Cheetoo and Dost Mohammed. Cheetoo makes the release of Udhojee Naik as his excuse, and in consequence it is proposed to send him to Cheetoo with Namdar Khan. Dost Mohammed excuses himself on account of the distance. Further, the Zamindars of Oomutwarree, Shujawalpore and the other Mahals in the Nawab's possesion are in a state of disturbance, plundering and robbing night and day.

I have heard from some of the Pindaries who have come that on their return (after setting fire to some houses in Nagpur which they did on hearing of Udajee Naik's seizure and plundering Pownie, etc.) by the route of Asseergarh, the Killadar of that place Jeswant Rao Lar occupied the different Ghats with his Infantry, and killed and wounded a great many of the Pindaries. He also made a night attack upon them which obliged them to leave behind many horses and tattoos laden with plunder.

It is now in contemplation to send the finest horses and men, towards the Army of Juggoo Bapoo. It is probable that in a few days they will go on a plundering expedition.

This day (the 6th December) the Nawab had a conference with Udhajee Naik, in concert with Nathoo Bhau, and Namdar Khan. It is said that Udhajee Naik and Nathoo Bhau will be dispatched to Seetoo's Camp, and that from thence Nathoo Bhau will accompany the Naik to Nagpur to negotiate.

A true translation.

R. JENKINS, Resident at Nagpur.

Extracts from Akhbars from the Camp of Karim.

Tuesday, the 3rd December.—The Nawab today forwarded, copies of Rajah Raghojee's intercepted letters, for the inspection of Maharaja Sindhia and wrote to Heeroo promising to march to Raghogarh when the plundering parties should arrive. Shaikh Bahadur Kadir Bux's manager represented that Rajah Raghojee had stopped the Ghats of the Nerbudda and the Pindaries would probably be molested in recrossing. The Nawab immediately sent to tell Udajee Naik that if any molestation was given, his head should be immediately struck off and directed him to write immediately to forbid it in the name of the Rajah which Udajee accordingly did.

Letters arrived from Cheetoo addressed to the Peerzada, to this purport. "According to your desire I shall attend you accompanied by Raja Mohammed Khan (Runjan), Imam Bux, Sahib Khan, Ghazee Khan and Lakkoo Jemadar. News arrived that Juggoo

Bapoo had arrived near Sohangung. The Nawab was much alarmed at this intelligence. Qadir Bux had sent all his family off towards Bhopal but was persuaded to recall them.

In the evening Girwar Singh and Mr. Ball, arrived from Shujawalpur. They represented that all the Zamindars were in revolt, and that Jotiba Maunia had gone to Juggoo Bapoo's camp. The Nawab was very angry on hearing these things.

Wednesday, 4th December.—The Nawab wrote letters to Cheetoo, Runjan and others and sent them with the Peerzadah to their camp. The Nawab then had a conference with Sindhia's Vakeel, whom he amused with professions of obedience and attachment. He then spoke of Cheetoo and said that if he would not come he would chastise him in the first instance. Qadir Bux applied for some money threatening to march away. The Nawab visited him and pacified him with a Tunkha for six thousand rupees on Sohungange and Bursia.

Thursday, 5th December.—Letters arrived from Dost Mohammed saying he could not come just now and from Cheetoo, promising to come as soon as Udhajee Naik should arrive in his Camp. Sindhia's Vakeel represented that it was of no use to detain Udhajee Naik, and that hitherto Vakeels had been respected whether in peace or war, that the Nawab should therefore dismiss Udhajee Naik.

The Nawab then sent for Mr. Ball and Girwar Singh and told them that they had not done well in writing reasonable letters to Juggoo Bapoo. They both took oaths that they never had and never would be guilty of treason. As the whole was false, the Nawab dismissed them again to Shujawalpore. Qadir Bux Burrun's son had written to Sindhia who through his Vakeel directed him to join Juggoo Bapoo without apprehension. Qadir Bux has not visited the Nawab for some days being discontented about money matters.

Friday, 6th December.—Ghazeeooddeen Khan, Nathoo Sydoo, Sahib Khan and other Pindaries who went to Nagpur paid their respects to the Nawab and represented their exploits of plundering and burning at Nagpur. The Nawab sent for Udhajee Naik and asked him about these things, comforting him about his dismissal. In Ghazeeooddeen Khan's quarters, are an elephant, many camels, horses, tattoos, bullocks and some children which have been carried off in this expedition.

The Jemadars represented what they had suffered from Jeswant Rao Lar, at the Ghats of Asseer and they said would revenge it. Cheetoo's Pindarrahs have also got a great deal of plunder.

True extracts and translations.

R. JENKINS, Resident at Nagpur.

Letter No. 50.—Jenkins reports that the movements of Jalna Subsidiary force towards Amraoti had resulted in the inactivity of the Pindaries. If operations are directed against them by the Sindhia's forces, the Pindaries will further be embarrassed. But he says "I still think that Sindhia would have been happy to hear of Karim at the gates of Nagpur."

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, the 29th December 1811.

I have the honour to transmit for your information the copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Colonel Conran.

The present inactivity of the Pindaries, is I have no doubt, to be attributed to the advance of the Jalna force towards Amraoti and that of the Corps under Major Custance to Nagpur; of which from their good intelligence the Pindary Chiefs must have received the earliest notice. The force sent against Karim by Sindhia do not seem to be yet advanced far on this side of Ujjain, but in the progress of their operations it was to have been expected that whether or not Karim could face them in the field, he would endeavour to escape all danger of treachery by crossing the Nerbudda, as long as he had no apprehension of a British force being so near as to endanger his rear. No opposition on the part of the Rajah of Berar, in the state of his military preparations a short time ago, could have been expected or rather the fear of having his capital attacked must have obliged His Highness to grant to the Pindary Chief any thing he might have demanded for his security. Hoshangabad and Seoni were indeed actually required by Karim, the former as a place of refuge for his family in lieu of Gurrah Mandla, if the Rajah would not cede that province.

If any vigorous operations on the part of Sindhia could be reasonably expected, it might be said that the Pindaries would be too much employed in securing themselves and families, to think of plundering incursions even if they were driven across the Nerbudda; but a Pindary must either plunder or starve, and Sindhia's operations must be much more decided than in all probability they will ever be, to prevent large detachments of the Pindaries from securing the countries within their reach for the means of their subsistence. I still think too that Sindhia would have been happy to hear of Karim at the gates of Nagpur.

From the time which has been gained, the Rajah is now much better prepared than he was to oppose Karim, and to reject his insolent demands without any great fear of the consequences, and this favourable posture of his affairs is the result, in my opinion, exclusively of our precautionary measures for nothing indicates that the Pindaries have yet been seriously pressed by Sindhia's forces. The last accounts of Karim's Camp mentioned that he was preparing to harass the forces and until now the reports from the

Nerbudda were such as to lead to an expectation of a new and formidable incursion to the southward perhaps under Karim himself.

Karim may now if endangered in Bhopal towards which place he is said to have moved, retire in the direction of Garrah Mandla, at present quite uncovered, but I think that he will not venture to cross the Nerbudda however pressed, although plundering parties may still infest the countries to the south of that river, not immediately protected by our forces.

I shall forward copies of this dispatch to the Chief Secretary for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General and to the Resident at Poona.

NIZAM'S AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—The enclosure contains the following information—

(i) That Ismail Yar Jang had resigned the office of Moonshi and Hussain Ali Khan had been appointed to that post by Meer Allum.

(ii) That Meer Allum intended to recommend Rajah Govind Buksh to succeed Rajah Mahipat Ram in the Civil authority.

(iii) That the Minister proposed that a portion of the Subsidiary force be permanently stationed at Basim or some other central and convenient place in Berar.

From—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

To—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 6th January 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my address No. 27 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR GEORGE HILARO BARLOW BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hon'ble Sir,

In obedience to the orders of the Nizam, Ismail Yar Jung waited upon Meer Allum soon after I had quitted the palace and resigned the office of Moonshi to the Dewan which was immediately conferred by Meer Allum on Hussain Ali Khan, better known by the name of Moonshi Ali, a quiet faithful respectable man, of approved survey and honesty and long attached to Meer Allum.

2. Soon afterwards Meer Allum received messages of congratulation from Shemsul Omrah, Umzadul Moolk and the other leaders of the Pagah party, and the Begums conveyed their blessings to him.

3. As soon as the crowd of Mootesuddies and others, who came to congratulate the Minister on the fortunate result of the negociation had subsided, I called upon him for the purpose of consulting him on the execution of the different measures which His Highness the Nizam had pledged himself to adopt.

4. The Minister commenced by paying me many flattering compliments upon the successful termination of my exertions, and assuring me that the measures which had been..................by the Nizam's signature would be......................acceptable to all the persons of credit, rank and respectability about the Court, but extremely..................to the community at large. He said that the Begums were particularly pleased at the considerate and moderate manner in which I had conducted all my proceedings, and that in general the real views and objects of the British Government had been unequivocally demonstrated both by the remonstrances which you addressed to the Nizam, and by the manner in which those remonstrances had been employed.

5. The Minister stated that he intended to recommend Rajah Govind Buksh to succeed Rajah Mahipat Ram in the Civil authority over the province of Berar; but that he was at a loss whom to appoint to the principal command, over the troops. That the only person whom he should wish to select for that important trust, from amongst the Omrahs at Hyderabad would be reluctant to quit the Court and the presence, and were by no means possessed of military talent or experience. I suggested the Nawab Salabat Khan as a person of great respectability and whose integrity and loyalty had been so lately proved. But the Minister repeated all the objections, which I myself entertain, to the nomination of Salabat Khan, by showing the elevation of the Chieftain would excite the jealousy of the other Chieftains in Berar, whose rank and whose ostensible pretentions, were equal to those of Salabat Khan. Under this difficulty the Minister suggested an arrangement, which I have myself long had in contemplation, and which I am convinced, after mature reflection to be the best calculated to ensure the tranquility of Berar, to protect the frontier of the Nizam's dominions, and generally to preserve the.................of this part of India. I am fully aware of this arrangement is liable to many objections, in one part and that it is contrary to the principles laid down by the supreme Government on.......................of the return of the Subsidiary force from Berar. But it may occur to the Government that the circumstances, under which the Minister's proposal is now submitted, are different from those upon which the policy of the return to Hyderabad of the whole Subsidiary Force was founded. It is almost certain that no dependance can be placed upon the sincerity of the Nizam's late assurances, or upon his steady adherence to the objective of his alliance. It must be considered that the Minister's life is very precarious, and after the experience which we have had of the consequence of getting a Minister appointed by the direct interposition of the influence, it will probably not be thought expedient to try such an experiment a second time. If the present Nizam should appoint a Minister of his own selection of Berar without the constant interposition of direct and offensive influence, we can place no reliance on the disposition of the Nizam himself or of his favourite advisers, but if a portion of the Subsidiary force be stationed in Berar, and the

remainder of it at Hyderabad, we shall be secured against all the possible consequences of the intrigues of those who are inimical to the alliance, and the combined interests of the two states. The Moosulman Chieftains in Berar who are well disposed towards the British cause and entertain a high respect for the British Nation from having served with our troops and having maintained a friendly intercourse with our officers, will not be gained over to any plan, inimical to the combined interest of the two states, as long as a British force is stationed in Berar, and whilst the Chieftains keep up a correspondence and intercourse with the Commanding Officer of that force, there will be no necessity to appoint a native officer of this Government to the general command of the Nizam's troops, which cannot be done without......................the efficiency of those troops and producing jealousy and animosity amongst the present Chieftains. A serious difficulty will therefore be avoided, and many advantages gained, by the adoption of the plan which the Minister proposed which I shall now submit to your consideration.

6. The Minister proposed that a portion of the Subsidiary force be permanently stationed at Basim, or some other central and convenient place in Berar, and he begged that this proposal might be specifically mentioned to you as one which he thought best calculated to secure the stability of our interest at this Court. We had a long discussion upon the details of this arrangement of which I shall content myself by laying before you the following result :—

1st.—The Minister thought that His Highness the Nizam would express no objection to the arrangement, but would readily accede to it.

2nd.—In case the arrangement should subject the British Government to any extra expense, the Minister expressed his willingness to defray that expense from the revenues of Berar. Upon this point I shall make the following observations. The stationing of Infantry alone will subject the British Government to no extra expense. As it may be of consequence to keep one of the Regiments of Cavalry in Berar, and as it will be necessary to allow the Europeans of the artillery provisions instead of an equivalent in money or what is technically called wet instead of dry Bhatta, the extra expense of this part of the arrangement may be calculated at about 3,000 rupees per month. It will be proper that the commanding officer should receive some allowance to enable him to maintain an establishment adequate to his station, and that he should be allowed two staff officers—A Brigade Major and Quarter Master of Brigade. This expense may be taken at 2,000 rupees so that the whole extra expense of the plan will not probably be greater than 5,000 rupees per mensem, and the whole of this will not probably be permanent for the Cavalry will meet with abundence of fine forage in Berar, and it is probable that when it is known a Regiment of Cavalry will be permanently stationed in Berar, the

Contractor of Cavalry supplies will be ready to extend his present contract to Berar on the same economical terms on which he has engaged to supply the Cavalry at Hyderabad.

3rd.—It would be perfectly understood that the detachment in Berar is not to be employed in settling the country, in enforcing the exercise of the Civil authority, or in any way contrary to the strict stipulations of Treaty. The detachment in Berar, in short, would not be subjected to any duties different from those which may be performed by the forces at Hyderabad.

4th.—The detachment in Berar would be paid by the Talukdar in Berar, and the Commanding Officer would grant the Talukdar, bills upon this treasury for the amount of his receipts, and the account would be regularly settled each month between the Minister and myself at Hyderabad. This arrangement would avoid all expense and difficulty in negotiating remittances or conveying treasure to the detachment.

7. It is now proper that I should offer to your notice in a more regular and connected manner, the several advantages which in my opinion and in that of the Minister may be expected to proceed from the adoption of the proposed plan:—

(1) It would prevent the necessity and the difficulty of appointing an officer of this Government to the General Command of the Nizam's troops. The whole of the Nizam's Contingent, that his troops stationed in Berar for the protection of that important province, might be divided into three separate bodies to be stationed—one near Ellichpore, another towards the Western Ghats leading into Khandesh and a third in some central place, perhaps Basim to be attached to the Talukdar of the province. By this disposition of the troops, the entrance to Berar from the Eastern and Western Passes will be defended and secured, and officers of respectability and experience such as Salabat Khan might be invested with the separate command of the advanced bodies and another Sardar would be selected by Raja Govind Buksh for the command of the division attached to his person. These Chieftains, as long as they looked up to the Commanding Officer of the British Detachment, would feel no personal jealousy of each other. They might correspond with the Commanding Officer respecting the disposal and station of the detachments under their respective commands, and a system of connected defence would be maintained with as much accuracy as can be expected from the natural constitution of a Native army.

(2) The quota of troops stationed in Berar which are almost the only efficient troops that can be spared for general service, constitute the Nizam's contingent on that portion which in future will be immediately attached to the British Subsidiary force. It will therefore materially assist the.....................of all future co-operation that the Chieftains of those troops who are designed to act with us should maintain a friendly correspondence and intercourse ....Officers, that they should know and respect each

other, and that the Chieftains should be accustomed to a degree of regularity, control and subordination without which they become not only useless but most cumbrous allies.

(3) The state of the Nizam's infantry in Berar demands the most serious attention of the British Government. The several Corps which are under the immediate and personal command of Mahipat Ram are the remains of Mons. Rayonds party. These Corps are dressed in the French costumes, they are disciplined in the French Words of Command, they are naturally attached to the French cause and this disposition has been designedly encouraged by Raja Mahipat Ram. An English Officer of the name of Drapper was desirous to introduce the English Exercise and Words of Command but the sepoys peremptorily refused to comply with his order and the officer was obliged to concede the point to prevent a disturbance. The person who really commands these Corps and has considerable influence over them, is one Clementi a Spanish, faithfully attached to Mahipat Ram and notoriously hostile to the British cause. This man calls himself a Portugueze and had sufficient interest at Goa to procure the..................of an Embassador from the Portugueze Government to the Soubahadar of the Deccan. Their credentials were seized by the late Resident and are still in my possession. But the man is really Spaniard. There are many Europeans and.....................men of different nations and character who are distributed amongst the several Corps in Berar, and are most of them under the control and influence of the Spaniard Clementi. These subordinate officers have gradually crept into the Nizam's service without having excited attention, but it is of much consequence that their number, their nation and their characters should be ascertained, and that such as are liable to suspicion should be dismissed from the service and sent out of the country. In the event of a peace between Great Britain and France, the state of the remains of the French Corps, and character and disposition of their Commanding Officers, must be regarded with a jealous and vigilant eye. Every effort of the British Resident will be required to prevent the admission of secret emissaries who may be employed in attaching the Corps of infantry of the Nizam's service to the interests and cause of the French Nation. I have therefore determined to procure a list of all the Europeans, or sons of Europeans, at present in the Nizam's service, and to make enquiry of their nation, characters and sentiments, and I propose, as a future general regulation, that such Europeans, as are worthy of being retained in the service, shall receive commissions from this Government, countersigned by myself, that a list of them shall be kept at the Residency describing their rank, station and period of service and that all Europeans or half cast who cannot produce their commission shall be seized and sent out of the country upon the principles above stated. I have judged it proper to require that Clementi and some others shall be dismissed from the Nizam's service, and Meer Allum has determined to reform the Corps of infantry in Berar and place them on a respectable footing under

the command of English officers who are already in the service of this state. To effect this reasonable reform and enable the English officers to create and maintain a proper influence and authority over their respective Corps, it will be of much importance that a detachment of British troops should be stationed in Berar by the general influence and example derived from the presence of a British detachment, and under the regulations which Meer Allum intends to adopt for the regular payment, clothing and equipment of the Corps in Berar, it may be expected that those Corps will gradually attain to a degree of discipline and subordination which may render them useful and creditable...............in any future war.

(4) The Commanding Officer of the detachment will not only have the means of procuring abundant intelligence of all movements near the frontier but he will be enabled to judge of the degree of credit which ought to be attached to such information.

Letter No. 2.—The enclosure conveys the information that the march of the British detachment had alone prevented Rajah Mahipat Ram from measures of hostility, and that he had handed over the charge of the affairs of Berar to Sital Das. He had however sent one Gosain Shambhu Bharty to the Resident conveying his loyal intentions to the British and the Nizam, and requesting for an assurance for the safety of his person, honour, and property.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 26th January 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last address No. 3 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HON'BLE SIR,

I have already had the honour of expressing my sentiments respecting the beneficial consequences which might be expected from the measure of detaching a British force to Berar, for the purpose of ensuring the peaceable retreat of Rajah Mahipat Ram, and the immediate and tranquil succession of Rajah Govind Buksh.

2. The advices, which I had received from the province of Berar, have confirmed the policy of that measure, and leave no doubt in my mind that the march of the British detachment has

alone prevented Rajah Mahipat Ram from pursuing a system of measures, which though they might not have amounted to positive hostility would have produced serious inconvenience to this Government, and might have left the object of the British Government in a dubious state of accomplishment, if absolute force had not been employed to effect them. Every unpleasant extremity however has been happily avoided, and I have every expectation of being able shortly to report to you that Rajah Govind Baksh has peaceably established his authority over the whole of Berar.

3. As soon as the intelligence of the new arrangement reached Basim, Rajah Mahipat Ram assembled all his friends and adherents, and much time was spent in deliberating upon the nature of the measures which ought to be pursued by them. At length it was given out by Rajah Mahipat Ram that His Highness had required his immediate attendance at Hyderabad with the largest body of troops which could be assembled at the instant, secret orders were therefore issued to such of the Military Chieftains as were at Basim or in its neighbourhood to collect their several quotas, and be prepared to accompany the Rajah to the Capital. It would appear that only few persons evinced a disposition to pay an immediate obedience to those orders. The greater number were willingly to observe the issue of events at the Capital before they complied with the Injunctions which proceeded from the dubious authority of Rajah Mahipat Ram. It is reported that Bukshi Ghulam Haidar Khan on whose attachment it is natural to suppose that Rajah placed the greatest reliance, replied that he was the servant of the Government and not of Mahipat Ram, and that he would obey only those orders which he was convinced proceeded from their common Sovereign. Although I have reason to believe that Ghulam Haidar Khan did make a reply of the nature which I have described, still I am disposed to conclude that it was not sent to Mahipat Ram, until it was previously ascertained that a British detachment would accompany Rajah Govind Buksh to Berar. The knowledge of this circumstance indeed determined the conduct of all the Military Chieftains, but until it was clearly ascertained I have good ground for supposing that most of them returned evasive answers to the orders which had been issued to them.

4. I understand that Rajah Mahipat Ram himself though considerably alarmed, continued to manifest no change of language or conduct until he found that the march of the British detachment was publicly known and that his influence over the troops had in consequence entirely ceased. Until that period he did not show any disposition to obey the orders of the Nizam, by delivering over the temporary charge of the province to Sital Dass, but after the intelligence of the march of the British detachment he seems to have abandoned all design of opposing the succession of Govind Buksh, and wrote to Sital Das declaring his anxiety to resign his station for the purpose of returning to Hyderabad.

5. After he had come to the resolution of peaceably resigning his office it would appear that he, for a short time, entertained the design of escaping from the Nizam's territories with the treasure that he had collected in Berar. It is certain that he packed up his treasure amounting it is said to twenty-five lacks of rupees, and that it was placed under the custody of a person who made a march towards Nagpur. But he shortly after changed his intention, and the person who had left Basim with the treasure, was ordered to return to the place. The relinquishment of this and his other designs may partly be attributed to the advice of his elder brother Amrut Ram, who resides at Hyderabad, and who wrote a letter to the Rajah entreating him to yield a ready compliance to the orders of the Government as the only means of securing to himself and to his family whatever was left to them. But the circumstance of the Rajah's family being in the City of Hyderabad was perhaps the most powerful restraint on his future actions as either his hostility or his flight might have exposed his family to indignity and distress.

6. I must interrupt the continuity of this subject by stating that the Ghosain Shambhoo Bharty, whose case I had the honour of submitting through the Secretary to your consideration had been a short time ago reinstated in some family possessions near Ellichpore by the Minister and was at Basim travelling towards his estates when Rajah Mahipat Ram received his orders of dismissal. As this poor man was known to have been patronized by me, he was treated with great neglect by Mahipat Ram on his first arrival at Basim. But when the Rajah had determined to comply with the orders of Government, he sent for the Gosain and entreated him to convey a letter to me with the utmost dispatch. After some difficulty the Gosain was prevailed upon to undertake the commission and the Rajah entrusted him with a letter and a long message to me. This Gosain who is equally celebrated for intergrity and activity, reached the Residency on the third day after his departure from Basim.

7. The Gosain gave me a detailed and faithful account of every thing that had passed since his arrival at Basim, and his account corroborated the intelligence which had been received both by the Minister and myself. The Gosain who has had much experience of the native character and seems to possess great sagacity, assured me that the peaceable resignation of Mahipat Ram was to be entirely attributed to the march of the British detachment.

8. After the Gosain had delivered to me Rajah Mahipat Ram's letter (of which I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation) he conveyed to me a long confidential message from the Rajah. The first part of the message consisted of the most solemn protestation of the Rajah's innocence and of his unalterable attachment to the interests of the British Government. The

second part of the message consisted of the most earnest entreaties to be permitted to return to Hyderabad and expressed his willingness to enter into any conditions which I might think proper to prescribe as a guarantee for his future good conduct. He offered to place a part of his family in the English camp; to permit me to station a guard and confidential intelligence over his person; to submit himself entirely to my will and pleasure to effect my object that the British Government might wish to accomplish at this Court; and to devote himself in future to the interests of the British Government. The message........................by emploring my mercy, by entreating me to permit him throw himself at my feet and by offering me a present of ten lacks of rupees.

9. I have the honour to submit to your notice a copy and translation of the reply which I thought proper to give the letter of Mahipat Ram.

10. In reply to the message I desired the Gosain to state to the Rajah that I was much concerned at the circumstances which had subjected the Rajah to so humiliating a condition, but that I should have considered myself culpable of the most gross abandonment of my public duty if I had neglected to represent to the Governor-General the dangerous conduct of the Rajah. That the Governor-General in Council after a temperate and deliberate review of all the circumstances to His Highness to which His Highness had been pleased to listen with all the attention due to the disinterested advice of the best friends. That in consequence of those remonstrances, His Highness had freely consented to dismiss Ismail Yar Jung from the presence, and Rajah Mahipat Ram from his station in Berar. That a successor to that station had been appointed by the Nizam at the recommendation of the Prime Minister of the Government, and that a Detachment of British troops had proceeded to Berar for the purpose of securing the undisturbed establishment of that successor's authority. With respect to his solemn protestations of innocence, the Rajah must be too well acquainted with the principles which regard the conduct of the British Government not to know that the British Government never........................to act from motives of personal animosity, that it never acted without possessing the most satisfactory grounds of decision, and that it never would have interposed its direct influence to effect the removal of public affair from his station under another Government without being first convinced of the necessity of such a measure to the security of its rights and interests. That after what had happened it was impossible for me to listen to the Rajah's proposal to come to the capital and that I would use every means in my power to defeat such an intention. I therefore advised the Rajah to obey with promptitude and cheerfulness the orders of his Government and to lose no time in transferring the charge of Berar to Sital Dass and in proceeding to Saugor. At the same time I could give the Rajah the most

solemn assurances respecting the security of his honour, his person, his family and his personal property. As to the Rajah's offers to myself, they were undeserving of a reply but with respect to his promises to the British Government, I begged the Rajah to be assured that every object of the British Government had been accomplished by his removal from Berar and by the friendly disposition expressed by His Highness the Nizam. As the Gosain continued to press upon me the important services which the Rajah might have it in his power to render to the British Government I again replied that the British Government had no other object to accomplish but the permanence of the harmony and confidence which had been established, and that the British Government was equally indifferent to the friendship and amity of such a man as Mahipat Ram.

11. The Gosain certainly executed his commission with the most zealous perseverance, which he honestly confessed to me was owing to a promise which the Rajah made him of a handsome sum of money if he should succeed in procuring a favourable reply to his letter and message. When the Gosain found all his effects unavailing he received my letter and returned to Basim with the same extraordinary expedition with which he had travelled from that place to Hyderabad.

12. Before the arrival of the Gosain, Rajah Mahipat Ram had began to deliver over the charge of Berar to Sital Das and on the receipt of my replies to his message and letter he hastened to complete the transfer. He afterwards addressed to me another letter to which I replied, and I have the honour to enclose copies and translation of both those papers.

13. After the arrival of the Gosain at Basim, Rajah Mahipat Ram pitched his tents to the southward of Basim and as soon as he had completed the formal transfer of the districts to the authority of Sital Das, he made a march toward the Godavery. It appeared to be his intention to wait at Khan a town on the banks of the river, until he should try the effect of another representation to me. A message nearly similar to that which was brought to me by the Gosain was conveyed to me by Amrut Ram, but my reply only repeated what I had before stated to the Gosain, and on the receipt of my reply to his second letter, he crossed the Godavery and marched towards Saugor.

14. You will observe that in the replies which I gave both to his messages and letters, I conveyed the assurances which the Nizam wished me to make to him; at the same time that I resisted in the most unequivocal terms his proposal of returning to Hyderabad under any conditions whatever.

15. The Rajah likewise addressed arzees to the Minister and in his replies to those arzees, the Minister gave him the most satisfactory assurances of the security of his honour, person and property. The Minister has likewise consented to his maintaining a

Garrison of five hundred infantry for the defence of the fortress of Saugor, but refused to comply with the Rajah's wish of being allowed a party of two hundred horse in addition to the Garrison.

16. It is difficult to decide whether the Rajah be sincere in his wish to relinquish public life and retire to Benares, Tirupathy or Jagannath. It is possible that this intention may merely proceed from those feelings of disappointment and melancholy which usually follow an unexpected reverse of fortune. But in the event of the Rajah's continuing to express a desire of returning to some place of religious worship on the Company's dominions, I beg leave to enquire whether I may be permitted to comply with his wish. It is probable that the Minister will not be disposed to consent to the Rajah's leaving their dominions, until he shall have adjusted his public accounts, but after that has been done I rather think he would wish to encourage the Rajah's intention of retiring to Benares.

17. His Highness has already manifested some eagerness to obtain possession of the treasure which it is supposed that Mahipat Ram has collected during his administration in Berar, and sent a message, on which that intention was rather insinuated than expressed, to the Minister. To this message the Minister replied that it was his intention to examine the public accounts of Mahipat and to oblige him to pay into the treasure any balance which should be fairly substantiated against him; but he advised the Nizam to forbear for seizing whatever should be proved to be the personal property of the Rajah. This circumstance affords a striking trait of the extraordinary character of the Nizam, whose feelings of personal attachment seem to be entirely regulated by the hopes of pecuniary gain.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

T. SYDENHAM,

Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:

The 2nd January 1807.

Letter No. 3.—In the enclosure, dated the 25th May, Sydenham reports that the Emperor had conferred on the Nizam his father's titles. The Nizam was very happy to receive the Mughal Emperor's Firman from his hands. The Nizam had conferred a Jagir on the grandson of Meer Allum on

this occasion. Sydenham and Meer Allum had arranged that Colonel Doveton should proceed to Basim to reorganize the Infantry in Berar.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 28th May 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last address No. 37 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR GEORGE H. BARLOW BART,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HON'BLE SIR,

I had the honour to receive from the Persian Department the Shokah from His Majesty the King of Delhi to His Highness the Nizam, in which His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon His Highness the same titles that were enjoyed by the late Nizam.

2. I likewise received from the Political Secretary, an extract from a dispatch of the Resident at Delhi, under date the 13th April, stating the circumstances, which led to a compliment so flattering and so acceptable to the feelings of His Highness the Nizam.

3. I lost no time in communicating such pleasing intelligence to His Highness, and I requested that a day might be fixed for His Highness to receive from my hands the letter of the King of Delhi.

4. As soon as a lucky day and hour could be fixed upon by the Astrologers of the Court, I received an intimation from His Highness, and early on the morning of the 23rd I proceeded to His Highness's tents at the garden of Lingumpilly.

5. After waiting a few minutes His Highness's approach was announced when I advanced and delivered His Majesty's Shoka, which His Highness received with the usual demonstrations of respect.

6. As soon as we were seated I communicated to His Highness the circumstances that are stated in the extract of the letter from the Resident at Delhi and paid His Highness an appropriate compliment on his wishes having been so completely anticipated, in consequence of the high respect and esteem in which His Highness and his illustrious family were held at the Court of Delhi. His Highness appeared to receive much pleasure from this communication and replied that he attributed the unsolicited accomplishment of his wishes entirely to the friendship and kind offices of the Governor-General.

7. After this had passed His Highness directed that his Majesty's letter should be opened and publicly read in Durbar. During the reading of the letter the gratification, which his Highness felt at the receipt of the Title and the terms in which they were conveyed, was very evident on his countenance. When this ceremony was finished I congratulated His Highness on the happy event, and this was immediately followed by the formal congratulations of the Minister. The Minister then rose and presented His Nazar, and His Highness was fully employed for the next half hour in receiving the Nazars, of the Omrahs and different Officers who were present in Durbar.

8. After the crowd had subsided I addressed the Nizam, and communicated to His Highness the substance of the Persian Secretary's letter of the 5th of May. I told His Highness that the box containing the Arzdasht and Nazar had reached Calcutta in safety but that the Governor-General in consideration of the principal object of that Arzdasht having been already obtained had supposed that His Highness might wish to substitute another Arzdasht, in its room, and under this impression judged it proper to suspend the transmission of the late Arzdasht until I had consulted His Highness's wishes on the subject. His Highness appeared much delighted at your kind attention and said he should certainly wish to substitute another Arzdasht in the place of the one lately transmitted, to Calcutta, and would alter the expression of his anxiety to receive the Titles which were enjoyed by his late father into an expression of his gratitude for the distinguished honour which had been conferred upon him. His Highness requested that I would obtain from Calcutta the late Arzdasht, and he directed the Minister and Ihtisamool Moolk to prepare another in its place. He also directed that a new set of seals should be immediately engraved, and should be employed on the Arzdasht which was about to be written to the King of Delhi.

9. His Highness afterwards talked with great vivacity on many general topics and I left him in the highest spirit imaginable.

10. As custom did not allow of my presenting a Nuzar and as the crowd at the Durbar prevented my offering a formal congratulation to His Highness, I judged it proper to address a letter of congratulation to His Highness, which I understand was very favourably received and extremely gratifying to His Highness. I have the honour to forward a copy and translation of that letter.

11. The following day His Highness returned to the city with rather more than usual pomp, and carried the King of Delhi's letter in his turband. On entering the city His Highness by his own directions was saluted with twenty-one guns.

12. On the same day I received a visit from the Minister, who took the Residency in his way from the encampment at Singumpally to the city. This Minister was in high spirit from the circumstance of an extensive personal Jagheer having been that morning conferred by His Highness upon his grandson, the young Abdullah, the son of Moonirul Moolk. The Mir has long been solicitous to procure a permanent provision for his grandson, well knowing how uncertain the transmission of personal property to his heirs would be under such a Government as that of Hyderabad. The Meer thought the present a favourable opportunity to express this wish to the Nizam, who with great liberality and cheerfulness immediately conferred upon the young Abdullah the extensive Jagheer of Coopul. That district (of which the annual revenue may be computed at three lacks of rupees) was formerly in the possession of Meer Allum, but he was deprived of it in disgrace by the late Minister. The restoration of that particular Jagheer to the family of Meer Allum is therefore a flattering compliment as well as a substantial gift to the family.

13. While Meer Allum remained with me, I pressed him to decide upon the final arrangements for the reforms of the Infantry in Berar, as Lieutenant Colonel Doveton (who has lately arrived and was present at the meeting) would be prepared to proceed to Basim as soon as the Minister had made up his mind on the subject. The Minister promised to do what I advised and appeared to be anxious for Colonel Doveton's departure, as he conceived that the reform of the Infantry in Berar would depend very much on the personal exertion of that officer.

14. I have the honour to acquaint you that I have transmitted to the Resident at Poona a copy of the statement with which I have been furnished by this Government of the amount of revenue which has been collected from the places lately transferred to the possession of Jeswant Rao Holkar, and that I have likewise supplied the Resident at Poona with an order from the Minister to Rajah Govind Buksh for the restitution of the pergunnah of Umber to the Agent of Holkar, which will complete as far as this Government is concerned, the performance of the conditional stipulations of the late Treaty with that Chieftain.

15. I take this opportunity of reporting to you the return of Mr. Henry Russell to the duties of his station at Hyderabad.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
T. SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad :
The 25th May 1807.

Substance of a letter from Captain Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad, to His Highness the Soubahdar written on the 23rd of May 1807.

The gratifying intimation which your Highness has received of His Majesty the King of Delhi having been pleased to confer on your Highness, the Titles by which your illustrious father was distinguished, has afforded the greatest pleasure to all those friends, who are sincerely interested in the welfare and prosperity of your Highness, and to me especially, whose attachment to your Highness, is unquestionable and who are occupied in advancing the dignity of your Highness, it has afforded a degree of satisfaction which I feel myself unable to describe.

The forms and customs of my country have precluded me from the honour of presenting to your Highness a Nazar on this occasion, and the crowd by which your Highness was surrounded during the time of my audience this morning deprived me of the opportunity of personally conveying to your Highness my congratulations on this happy event in such terms as the feelings of my heart suggested. I have therefore gratified myself by addressing the letter to your Highness. May the Almighty Disposer of Events render the high and illustrious Titles auspicious to your Highness, may the General Rays of the Royal Favour be incessantly ....towards your Highness, may you Long continue to dignify and adorn the Musnud of Your Ancestors.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
Second Assistant.

Letter No. 4.—In the enclosure which is a copy of the letter addressed to the Governor-General by Sydenham, dated the 16th June, the latter mentions how the name of the British Cantonment near Hussain Sagar was changed into Secunderabad.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 16th June 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last official address No. 38 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HON'BLE SIR,

As soon as the Arzdashts proposed to be substituted in the place of those formerly transmitted to Calcutta were prepared and the new seals of state had been approved of by His Highness I was invited to the Durbar for the purpose of receiving the Arzdashts from the hands of His Highness.

2. His Highness was in a cheerful temper, and repeated the expression of his obligation to you for the unsolicited accomplishment of his wishes. I have showed his Highness the two papers of the Delhi coinage, which I had received from Mr. Secretary Edmonstone, and explained to His Highness the reasons which had induced the Governor-General in Council to resolve not to change the former dies of the coinage in the British Territories.

3. His Highness afterwards delivered to me two Arzdashts for His Majesty the King of Delhi, one of them being a letter of condolence on the death of the late King and the other a letter of congratulation on his present Majesty's auspicious accession to the throne, and of gratitude for the distinguished honours lately conferred upon His Highness. The last of the two letters is accompanied by two Nuzars, each of one hundred and one Gold Mohars, one of the Nuzars referring to His Majesty's accession, and the other to His Highness's late receipt of his father's titles.

4. His Highness then gave me a letter of thanks addressed by him to yourself which was accompanied by another from the Minister upon the same subject.

5. His Highness told me that he had long been reflecting upon an appropriate name to be conferred upon the British cantonments near Hussain Sagar, and had at length determined that they should be distinguished by name of Secunderabad which appellation he had selected from Secunder being his family title, and which he therefore thought best adapted to demonstrate his great regard and friendship for the British nation.

6. I made a suitable reply to this flattering communication and assured His Highness how much the British Subsidiary force would be honoured by its cantonments being distinguished by an appellation taken from the family title of His Highness. After a few minutes had elapsed His Highness gave to me a letter in reply to the late letter of congratulation which I had addressed to him. The last paragraph of His Highness's letter expressed his desire that the cantonments might hereafter be called by the name Secunderabad. I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of His Highness's letter to me.

7. I lost no time in communicating to Colonel Montresor the honour which His Highness had been pleased to confer on the British Cantonment and I conveyed similar intelligence to the Government of Fort St. George.

8. As Lieut. Colonel Doveton had accompanied me to the Durbar, I availed myself of the occasion to present him to His Highness as the Officer who had been particularly appointed to the Command of the British detachment in the Province of Berar and from whose talents and experience I expected that Rajah Govind Buksh would derive the most useful assistance.

9. I took this opportunity of..............................to His Highness the substance of the extract from Mr. Mercer's letter dated the 16th April, relative to the confinement of the two principal Chieftains of the Pindarahs, and expressed my hope that the late measures adopted by Dowlat Rao Sindhia would prevent the Pindarrahs from repeating their outrages in the province of Berar; at the same time I observed that the repose and security of his Highness's territories ought to be made to depend upon the efficiency, vigilance and activity of His Highness and I made no doubt that His Highness's territories would in future be secured from the irregular depredations of the Pindaries by the judicious arrangements of Govind Buksh assisted and advised by Lieutenant Colonel Doveton.

10. His Highness did us the honour of conferring jewels on Mr. Henry Russell and myself as a compliment to the British Government for having procured for His Highness the titles enjoyed by his father. His Highness also gave jewels to my principal Moonshi, Mowlvee Ebn Ali for having read in public Durbar the Sahokah from the King of Delhi which contained the titles His Highness likewise conferred jewels on Lieut. Col. Doveton on the occasion of that Officer's approaching departure to his station in the province of Berar.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad : T. SYDENHAM,
The 16th June 1807. Resident at Hyderabad.

Translation of an Enayatnama from His Highness the Nizam to Capt. Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad. (*Received on June* 2, 1807.)

I have been much gratified by the receipt of a letter from you congratulating me on the occasion of the titles that were enjoyed by my father having been conferred on me and stating that the customs of your country had precluded you from presenting me with a Nuzzar.

The unsolicited attainment of this honour must be ascribed to the happy effort of my alliance with the Hon'ble Company, to the kindness and regard of the Governor-General, and to exertions which have been made by you whose attachment to me is unquestionable, and the gratification which has been experienced by all those who are interested in my welfare has therefore been proportionably great. The expression "O Zephyr of the morning all this hath been produced by thee" is justly applicable to you, who are so intent on promoting the advantage of my Government, as every country has its peculiar customs, there is no doubt that in England it is not usual to present Nuzzars. But these are merely the external characters which are used to express sincerity and attachment, and when therefore substantial proofs are afforded, all forms and customs may be rejected as superfluous. You are constantly and asseduously accussed in promoting the interests of this State, and there can, therefore, be no doubt that you will exert yourself in the attainment of every object that may be beneficial to it, may be, Almighty render this valuable blessing auspicious to all my friends and especially to you whose attachment to me is indubitable.

The Cantonment of the Subsidiary force having by the favour of God been very populous, it is necessary that it should be distinguished by a name and in consideration of the intimate connection that exists between the two states I therefore desire that it may henceforth receive appellation of Secunderabad.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Second Assistant.

Approval of the Governor-General that Hussain Nagar be named Secunderabad.

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of that note.

Translation of a note from Captain Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad to Meer Allum, dated August 18th, 1807.

The Hon'ble the Governor-General had derived great satisfaction from His Highness the Soubahdar having been pleased, in consideration of the perfect intimacy between the two states, to distinguish the British Cantonment near the Hussain Nagar by the appellation of Secunderabad, a circumstance which affords a strong proof of his Highness's attachment to the British Government.

The Governor-General has also been very much gratified to hear that His Highness has been graciously pleased to confer the fort and districts of Kopul as a personal Jagheer on your grandson Syed Abdullah Khan Bahadur.

A true translation and copy.

HENRY RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Letter No. 5.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter addressed to Jenkins, dated 30th December. In this enclosure Sydenham reports to the Governor-General what mischief Rajah Mahipat Ram had been creating in Sholapur. He had instigated Inkuppa Naik to expel by force, Timuppa the Diwan of Rajah Ped Naik of Sholapur and usurp the Diwanee for himself (Inkuppa Naik). Raja Mahipat Ram had also misappropriated a part of the tribute that Raja Pid Naik was to pay to the Nizam.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hyderabad, the 22nd December 1807.

I have for some time past, been desirous to lay before your Lordship, a detailed and connected account of the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram in establishing his influence over the person and possessions of the Rajah of Sholapore, but the measures of Mahipat Ram were concerted and executed with so much secrecy and art, that it was impossible at first to ascertain what share he actually took in the event that lately happened at Sholapore, or what were the nature and extent of his connection with Inkuppa Naik, the person who ostensibly directed those transactions. Indeed I have so often been compelled to exhibit and comment upon the character and conduct of Mahipat Ram, that I feel some degree of reluctance to force them again upon the notice of Government. I could have wished, though I scarcely expected, that his removal from station and his banishment to Sagar would impose some restraint on his future proceedings and would convince him of the danger of disturbing the repose of this Government.

2. My knowledge of the character and views of Rajah Mahipat Ram has induced me to watch his proceedings with unremitting vigilance, and without being able to discover the nature of his correspondence, I have ascertained that since the period of his arrival at Sagar he has maintained a constant and clandestine intercourse with his friends in this city, with several of the military commanders in Berar, and with persons at Aurangabad, Poona and Nagpur. Both Rajah Govind Buksh and Lieut. Colonel Doveton have repeatedly complained of the pernicious effects of a secret influence, which is continually exerted against the operation of the several measures, that have been adopted for the improvement of the condition of Berar and the reform of the Military establishment in that province. They both appear with much reason to ascribe this counteracting influence to the intrigues of Mahipat Ram, and it is certain that the commanders, who have in some instances manifested a most wanton inattention and in others a most wilful disobedience to the suggestions of Colonel Doveton, and the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh are precisely those persons with whom it is notorious that Mahipat Ram maintains a constant correspondence.

3. I have often advised the Minister to check the correspondence of Mahipat Ram, by insisting on his not receiving or dispatching any letters without the previous inspection of the Agent, to be placed for that express purpose, near the person of Mahipat Ram; but the Minister is so desirous of cultivating the good will of the Nizam, and so reluctant to take any step that might afford to His Highness the slightest ground of offence, that he has permitted this correspondence to be carried on, without pretending to be acquainted with it.

4. I should imagine that the principal objects of this correspondence were to maintain during his banishment a portion of that extensive influence which he possessed while in power, and if possible impede the operation of the Ministers measures, for the regulation of the country. If it were possible for him to render the Minister's measures glaringly deficient he would eagerly contrast the effects of them with those magnificent promises of doubling the revenue of the state which he engaged to perform if he were invested with exclusive control over that department of the Government.

5. But the proceedings of Mahipat Ram have not been confined to the agitation of clandestine intrigue; without the previous authority or consent either of the Nizam or the Minister, he has interfered in the concerns of the Rajah of Sholapore, he forcibly removed the former Dewan Timmuppa, and by the same means has placed a person of the name Inkuppa Naik in the entire possession of the person, property, and government of the Rajah of Sholapore.

6. This Inkuppa is a distant relation of Ped Naik, the present Rajah and was compelled a long time ago to leave Sholapore on account of some disagreement with the Rajah's Dewan Timmuppa. He came to Hyderabad, and became security on the part of the Rajah for the regular payment of the annual Paishkush, up to the Fusly year 1215. After completing this arrangement he returned to the neighbourhood of Sholapur and endeavoured to negotiate a reconciliation with the Rajah and Timmuppa, but failing in this object he collected a small band of freebooters and subsisted them by depredations on the Sholapore Country and by occasional incursions into the territories of His Highness the Peshwa.

7. About this period Rajah Mahipat Ram arrived at Shapur. He was accompanied thither by Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, Nabbu Yar Jung and Sadulla Khan, with their respective parties of Horse and Foot, amounting to two thousand men. After their arrival at Shapore, the Minister repeatedly directed them to return to their duty in Berar, but they paid no attention to the Minister's orders, and as they proclaimed their determination to adhere to the fortunes of Rajah Mahipat Ram, they were dismissed from the service of the Nizam.

8. Besides the body of troops, commanded by those persons Rajah Mahipat Ram was accompanied by a party of horse under his own immediate command and by one of the French Battalions of Infantry, part of which had always been stationed at Shapoor and Sagar and part had attended his person in Berar.

9. For a long time Rajah Mahipat Ram affected to maintain this force under the plea of providing for the security of his person against the enmity of Mir Allum, and I have every reason to believe that he did and may indeed still, imagine that the Meer would avail himself of the first plausible pretext to seize his person and place him in close confinement. But I am well convinced that the Meer never entertained any hostile design against the person of Mahipat Ram and the laudable moderation of his conduct, since Mahipat Ram was disgraced, is a sufficient proof of the absurdity of Mahipat Ram's suspicion.

10. Whatever might have been the real design of Mahipat Ram in keeping so large a force about his person, whether it proceeded from fear as he himself pretends, or as others suppose from distant views of ambition, it is certain that their maintenance must have been very burthensome and could not long be supplied from his own resources, even if it be admitted he carried with him from Berar fifty lacks of rupees in treasure and jewels. It was therefore necessary that he should devise some means of supporting the parties of his adherents on terms less destructive to his private fortune, and it appears to me that his desire to retain those commanders about his person, without being burthened with the maintenance of them, compelled him to have recourse to the Rajah of Sholapore for the means of subsisting their troops.

11. With this view, as I imagine, he was desirous to be invested with the management of receiving the annual tribute from Sholapore, and although the Nizam did not appear adverse to that proposal the Minister would by no means consent to it. He afterwards endeavoured to prevail upon Timmuppa, the Dewan at Sholapore to entertain a small party of Mohammed Raza Khan's troops in the service of the Rajah. Timmuppa showed no inclination to accept of this offer and when Mahipat Ram pressed it upon his acceptance, Timmuppa peremptorily refused to have any connection with the adherents of Mahipat Ram.

12. Being disappointed in his expectation of procuring employment and subsistence for his troops either from this Court or from Timmuppa, Mahipat Ram at length had recourse to Inkuppa Naik, who, as I have before stated, was living in the neighbourhood of Sholapur, anxious to establish a footing in Sholapore, and supporting himself by the depredations of a band of freebooters that he had gradually collected about his person.

13. Mahipat Ram sent Mohammed Raza Khan to Inkuppa Naik to offer his assistance in placing Inkuppa as the Dewan of Sholapur provided Inkuppa would pay him a certain sum of money to defray the arrears due to the troops of Mohammed

Raza Khan, and would afterwards place the parties of that commander and Nabbu Yar Jung in the service of the Rajah of Sholapore. It may be readily supposed that Inkuppa Naik reduced to live on the dangerous and precarious subsistence procured by the depredations of a band of freebooters would cheerfully accede to any proposals which Mahipat Ram might mkke to him. The engagement was soon concluded. Inkuppa gradually and secretly increased his party by the men whom Mohammed Raza Khan and the other commanders pretended from time to time to dismiss from their service. When his force was thought sufficient to make an attempt on the fort of Sholapur, Inkuppa Naik marched towards that place, but after an engagement with the Sholapur troops was compelled to retire. It was then found necessary to afford him more decided assistance and Mohammed Raza Khan and Nubbu Yar Jung having joined Inkuppa Naik, another engagement took place, which terminated in the expulsion of Timmapa and the establishment of Inkuppa in the entire administration of the affairs of the Rajah of Sholapore.

14. For further particulars of those transactions I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the enclosed papers marked 1 and 2, the former containing a brief account of the engagements which took place and the latter being the substance of a communication from Sher Beg Khan a respectable man who was stationed by this Government near Sholapore to receive the annual tribute from the Rajah.

15. Some months after the transactions I have related took place, I received letters from the Rajah of Sholapur and Inkuppa Naik, copies and translations of which I have the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice. From them it would appear that the Rajah was perfectly satisfied with the condition of his affairs and that immediate arrangements would be made to pay the annual tribute which the only subject on which this court is at all interested. But having received intelligence of the share taken by Mahipat Ram in the expulsion of Timmapa and the establishment of Inkuppa's authority, I communicated with the Minister on the subject but he appeared to take no interest in the transaction, and seemed to imagine that the change in the administration of the Rajah's affairs would conduce to the more punctual discharge of his obligations to this state. But I have since ascertained from the minister himself, that he was directed by the Nizam to take no notice of the transaction that Mahipat Ram had solicited to obtain. An Enayat Namah from His Highness approving of the change which had been effected in the administration of affairs at Sholapur that His Highness appeared desirous to comply with Mahipat Rams wishes, but that the Minister had formally protested against so improper a measure, however the Minister at the express desire of His Highness evaded all discussion of the subject with me and as the British Government was by no means interested in it, I did not think it necessary to urge the Minister to any further disclosure of his sentiments. In observing this line of conduct I was desirous to avoid a discussion which might be

offensive to His Highness's feelings, as well as to manifest a scrupulous adherence to that leading principle of our alliance, by which we are prevented from interfering in the internal administration of this state.

16. At a subsequent period when the Minister became impatient to realize the amount of the Peshkush due from the Rajah of Sholapur for the Fusly year 1216 Inkuppa Naik manifested no inclination to discharge the arrears and the Minister proposed to send a body of troops to Sholapur to enforce the payment of the Peshkush. On this occasion Mahipat Ram represented to the Nizam that the Minister, under the pretext of enforcing the payment of the Sholapore Peshkush intended to send a body of troops to seize his person and place him in close confinement, and he therefore, entreated His Highness not to consent to the employment of the troops in the manner proposed by the Minister. As for the payment of the Sholapur Peshkush, Mahipat Ram, undertook to become security for the regular discharge of the whole Peshkush by certain instalments, and for that purpose went through the form of negotiating bills on certain soucars at Hyderabad for the payment of the first instalment.

17. As His Highness appeared anxious to avoid the employment of coercive measures, until less forcible means had been tried, and failed of success, and as the Minister was induced to expect that Mahipat Ram would adhere to his voluntary engagements the proposal for sending a force into the Sholapur district was relinquished and Sher Beg Khan was ordered to Sholapore for the purpose of receiving the amount of each instalment of the Peshkush either from Inkuppa Naik or Mahipat Ram.

18. After the lapse of some weeks it become evident that Mahipat Ram had no serious intention of discharging the obligation which he had contracted, and Inkuppa Naik very candidly announced his incapability of raising so large a sum, as the annual Peshkush from the revenues of the Sholapur country. He had indeed paid a large sum of money to Mahipat Ram for the assistance he had received in the forcible acquisition of the administration of Sholapur, and Mahipat Ram had taken the precaution to secure the possession of such of the Rajah of Sholapore's personal property as might otherwise have enabled Inkuppah to raise some funds for the payment of the Peshkush. Besides which Inkuppa was burthened with the maintenance of the troops under the command of Mohammed Raza Sindi and Nabbu Yar Jung, who remained at Sholapur and were ostensibly in the Rajah's service.

19. During this period both the Nizam and the Minister were much indisposed in health. His Highness seldom quitted his Mahal and the Minister was too feeble to attend to anything but the court business of the Government. But when the minister recovered from his indisposition I sent for Sher Beg Khan from Sholapore and ascertained from that person what little reliance

ought to be placed on the promises of Rajah Mahipat Ram, who had manifested no inclination to pay the first instalment of Peshkush, although he had assumed an entire control over the affairs of the Sholapur country, and has possessed himself of the most valuable part of the personal property of the Rajah.

20. The Minister likewise ascertained both from the representation of Sher Beg Khan and other creditable sources of intelligence, that the Rajah of Sholapore was extremely dissatisfied with the situation, to which he had been reduced, that he was anxious to withdraw himself from the oppression of Inkuppa Naik, and to reinstate Timmappa in the management of his affairs. That Inkuppa Naik, probably under the apprehension of being driven from Sholapore, by the adherents of the Rajah, had sent the Rajah to a hill fort called Windroog, and had subsequently removed him to Sholapore where he was closely guarded by Mahipat Ram. That Timmappa with his eldest son had secreted himself in the neighbourhood of Sholapur, and after escaping the persuit of Inkuppa's troops, was travelling towards Hyderabad for the purpose of throwing himself under the protection of the Nizam and of imploring His Highness's aid to restore the Rajah of Sholapur to the independent and undisturbed possession of his territories.

21. Mahipat Ram addressed an Arzee to the Minister acquainting him that the Rajah of Sholapur had retired to Windroog and had subsequently come to Sholapore, and the motives of these movements is ascribed to the Rajah's apprehensions of the persons sent to claim on the part of this Government the payment of this Peshkush. I have the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice a copy and translation of Mahipat Ram's Arzee to the Minister.

22. This Arzee was accompanied with the most solemn assurances of Mahipat Ram's determination to make immediate arrangements for the discharge of the Peshkush for the Fasly year 1216 and for the year 1217 which will soon become due. These assurances were repeated to the Nizam who being disposed to listen to them, the Minister did not judge it expedient to appear to refuse credit to them, although he was well convinced of their fallacy. During the whole of these transactions Mahipat Ram repeadtedly declared that he had no sort of connection with Inkuppa Naik, that he had dismissed Mohamed Raza Khan and the other commanders from his service, and that he had given refuge to the Rajah of Sholapore with the view only of contributing to the interests of the Nizam's state by inducing him and Inkuppa Naik to proceed to the immediate discharge of the arrears of Peshkush due to the Government. But the part which Mahipat Ram had really acted on this transaction became sufficiently notorious, and I foresaw that the Minister would be soon reduced to the necessity either of renouncing all expectation of realizing the Peshkush, or coming to some candid explanation with the Nizam and recurring to his original plan of enforcing the payment of the Peshkush by coercive measures.

23. If the question of the Sholapur Peshkush had stood alone the Minister would not have hesitated in his option between these two alternatives. But in fact the question of the Peshkush was so involved with the conduct and measures of Mahipat Ram that the Minister did not well know how to act without giving offence to His Highness the Nizam. The fast of the Ramzan intervened which as usual suspended the transaction of all extra business during that month and the Minister afterwards had a relapse of his asthmatic complaint which rendered him averse from the agitation of any measure that would require his presence at the Durbar and might be attended with tedious altercations with the Nizam.

24. I do not know how long this state of indecision might have continued if a circumstance had not taken place which removed the Nizam's reluctance to employ a force against the Sholapur country, and enabled the Minister to demonstrate the necessity of adopting the most decided measures to restrain the power which has lately been acquired by Inkuppa Naik.

25. The day before yesterday intelligence was received by Umzadul Moolk (the maternal uncle of Shamsul Omrah, and the Manager of the Pagah lands) that Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabbu Yar Jung with a body of troops had entered the districts of Gulbarga and Ferozabad and burnt many villages in those districts and had destroyed or taken possession of property of the amount of one lack and twentyfive thousand rupees. Amzad-Ool Moolk lost no time in communicating this intelligence to the Nizam, and he entreated His Highness to direct Meer Allum to adopt immediate measures for the security of those districts. from further depredations. The Nizam was much surprised and rather indignant, at so insolent and daring an outrage upon his territories. His Highness sent for Rajah Chandu Lal and directed him to carry the Arzee of Umzadul Moolk to Meer Allum and to desire Meer Allum to furnish him with a list of such troops as could be detached from Hyderabad to the Gulbarga District. Meer Allum highly approved His Highness's resolution to employ a force for the protection of the district, and furnished His Highness with a statement of the troops at Hyderabad, that were prepared for field service. His Highness then directed the Minister to communicate to me a copy of Umzadul Moolk's Arzee and to request my advice upon the subject. I accordingly received a note to that effect from the minister, to which I briefly replied by expressing my perfect concurrence in the expediency of employing a force for the protection of His Highness's possessions but as the Minister seemed desirous to see me for the purpose of communicating to me fully his sentiments on the subject I stated that I would wait upon him in the course of a day or two to hear what he had to say, and to convey to him what I had long felt desirous of stating respecting the late events at Sholapur and the conduct of Rajah Mahipat Ram.

26. In the course of that day Timmapa the late Dewan at Sholapur, arrived at Hyderabad, and had an interview with the Minister. Timmapa remained with the Minister for some time and presented letters from the Rajah of Sholapur to the Minister and the Nizam; after which he was directed to call upon me the next day for the purpose of delivering a letter from the Rajah of Sholapur to my address, and of giving me the fullest information respecting the wishes of the Rajah and the situation of his affairs.

7. Timmapa accordingly waited upon me the next day, delivered to me the Rajah of Sholapore's letter, and made me circumstantially acquainted with every thing that had taken place at Sholapur. But I am reluctant to detain this dispatch any longer, and shall proceed in my next address to relate to your Lordship what passed at this meeting as well as at my interview with the Minister, and to state the measures which the Nizam and the Minister have determined to pursue not only for the protection of the Gulburga districts, but with a view to the future situations of the Rajah of Sholapur, and Rajah Mahipat Ram.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

T. SYDENHAM,

Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:

The 22nd December 1807.

Letter No. 6.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins. Sydenham reports to the Governor-General the disturbances in the Sholapur region due to the mischief of Rajah Mahipat Ram. He had instigated and assisted Inkuppa Naik to overthrow the Dewan Timuppa of Ped Naik the Rajah of Sholapur and had sent Mohammed Raza Khan Sindi and Nabi Yar Jung as his agent to accomplish the task. Ped Naik with his family had been kept in confinement at Shapore, where lived Mahipat Ram. Timappa's family and goods had been seized. To set these matters right he was in agreement with Meer Allum to take certain measures, which are suggested in the body of the letter.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hyderabad, the 25th January 1808.

I have the honour to lay before your Lordship copies and translation of the note from the Ministers No. 1 and 2 and, of my reply No. 3 together with a copy and translation of the Arzee from Amzudool Moolk to the Nizam, to which papers I alluded in the 25th paragraph of my last dispatch.

2. I have already stated that Timmappa Naik, the late Dewan at Shahpoor waited upon me on the 22nd instant, and I now proceed to relate what passed at that meeting.

3. Timmappa was accompanied by his eldest son, by a confidential Mootesuddee of Rajah Chandu Lal's and by the Agent who resides at this Court on the part of the Rajah of Sholapore. After the usual interchange of civilities, Timmappa presented to me a letter from the Rajah of Sholapore of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy and translation. This letter almost ———————— the same as those addressed by the Rajah to Meer Allum and His Highness the Nizam.

4. Both Timmappa and the Rajah's Agent confirmed what the Rajah has stated in his letter respecting the means by which he was deprived of all real authority, the distress which he suffers under the oppressive administration of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, his anxiety to be restored to his legal authority and to re-establish Timmappa to his former situation and the circumstance of his being held in confinement by those whom he designates as his enemies. The expressions employed in the first part of the Rajah's letter will be from every quarter regarding the share which Rajah Mahipat Ram took in placing the Rajah of Sholapoor in the hands of Inkuppa Naik for the purpose of procuring for himself an entire control over the Sholapoor country.

5. Timmappah stated that the Rajah of Sholapore looked to the Nizam's Government for protection and support, and that the Rajah would enter into the most positive engagements for the payment of the arrears of Paishkush and for the regular discharge in future of his obligations the Nizam's Government.

6. He then made forcible appeal to the justice and liberality of the British Government and he entreated me to afford my assistance in removing the Rajah of Sholapore from the control and oppression of Mahipat Ram and Inkuppa Naik and in replacing the Rajah in a state of independent authority over his hereditary possessions. He stated that as long as the Rajah was kept in his present conduct of servitude he could adopt no measures for the discharge of his obligation to the Governments of the Nizam and the Peshwa; that heavy arrears would accumulate which no exertions of his could possibly liquidate; that

those Governments would employ troops to enforce their rights and that the country of Sholapur would be depopulated and ruined.

7. I replied that however I might commisserate with the Rajah on the important situation to which he had been reduced, yet the British Government could not interfere in a transaction which entirely rested with His Highness the Nizam. That His Highness and his Ministers would of course adopt such measures as they might judge necessary for the security of his territories from the depredation of the Sholapoor troops on account of His Highness's pecuniary rights over the Rajah. That when called upon by Nizam for my sentiments I should offer such advice as might appear to me most coducive to the rights and interests of this state.

8. Timmapa then told me that he had consulted with Meer Allum and Rajah Chandulal on the means of restoring the Rajah of Sholapoor to independent authority, and of securing the regular and punctual payment of the Paishkush, but that Meer Allum would come to no determination, until he had received my opinion upon the subject. I said that I intended to visit Meer Allum the following day, and would listen to the plan that had been suggested for the accomplishment of those important objects. Timmapa stated that he had been particularly desired by Meer Allum to make me fully acquainted with all the circumstances of the late transactions at Sholapoor. I replied that I was ready to hear his account of those events, and he accordingly related to me all that he knew or had heard of the circumstances connected with them. But as his narrative was extremely diffuse and unconnected, I directed my Moonshis to draw out in my presence a statement of what Timmappa had said and I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of that statement, which contains every circumstance of consequence related by Timmappah.

9. On the morning of the 23rd I called upon the Minister, whom I was happy to find a good deal recovered from his late attack of asthma, though he complained of much oppression at his breast when he moved about or spoke in a loud tone of voice.

10. He told me that the Nizam was determined to send without loss of time a party of troops into the Gulbarga District, that a respectable Emir of the name of Nizamut Jung, who is connected with His Highness's family, had been appointed to the command of the Detachment, that the Battalion lately raised by Mr. Gordon would form a part of the Infantry to be employed on this service and that as Nizamut Jung was unacquainted with military affairs, Mr. Gordon was to be invested with a discretionary power over the movements of the detachment. The Minister then gave me a statement of the troops, intended to proceed to the Gulbarga district of which statement I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation.

11. The Minister proceeded to observe that it became a subject of serious consideration how to prevent the recurrence of outrages similar to that which had been lately committed by the troops, ostensibly in the service of the Rajah of Sholapoor, upon the territories of His Highness the Nizam, and how to ensure the regular payment of the Paishkush due to this state from the Rajah of Sholapoor. That the arrears of Paishkush already amounted to nearly eight lacks of rupees, and that in a few months five lacks more would become due so that a deficiency of thirteen lacks of rupees would shortly accumulate in the Revenue of this state which he saw no prospect of the recovering while the Rajah of Sholapoor was permitted to remain in his present condition. He, therefore considered it to be of the utmost importance to the interests and tranquillity of this state, that some measures should be immediately pursued for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. That while the Rajah continues to be subjected to the oppressive administration of Inkuppa Naik or rather of Rajah Mahitpat Ram, and as long as Inkuppa retained Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabi Yar Jung in the service of the Rajah of Sholapoor, no expedition could be formed of realizing the Peshkush or of protecting the Nizam's possessions from the depredation of the Sholapoor troops without the permanent establishment of a strong force in that quarter; that the permanent employment of a body of troops in that quarter would be inconvenient and expensive; that it would not secure the regular payment of the Peshkush and that it would be inconsistent with the reputation and dignity of this state to station a force in the Gulburga district to protect the Nizam's territories from the continual insults and outrages of Inkuppa Naik, who partly by fraud, partly by force, but principally by the assistance of the subjects of the Nizam, had been enabled to usurp the legitimate authority of the Rajah of Sholapoor, and to employ the resources of that district in injuring and insulting the Nizam's possession. He, therefore, considered it to be absolutely necessary that Rajah Ped Naik should be reinstated in the legitimate and independent possession of his country that Timmappa, agreeably to the anxious wish of the Rajah, should be restored to the Dewani, that Inkuppa Naik should be induced or compelled to return to his former condition, and that vigorous measures should be taken for the dispersion of the party that had been collected by Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabi Yar Jung.

12. Here I interrupted the Minister by stating that although I cordially agreed to the propriety and policy of adopting the measures he had proposed, for the settlement of the Sholapoor country and the realization of the rights of this state, over the Rajah of Sholapoor yet that he appeared in this statement to have overlooked Rajah Mahipat Ram who was unquestionably the person who had originally excited the disturbances in that quarter, had obtained the supreme control over the Rajah of Sholapoor's possessions, and was most capable of resisting the measures which had been proposed by the Minister.

13. The Minister replied that though he had not mentioned the name of Rajah Mahipat Ram excepting in a casual way, yet he was not the less aware of his having entirely directed all the measures that had been pursued at Sholapoor, that Mahipat Ram would not however oppose any arrangements which might be concerted with me and should be sanctioned by His Highness the Nizam, for that would be placing himself in the situation of a public enemy of this Government in which case it would be necessary to employ the most decisive means for reducing him to subjection. It was more probable that Mahipat Ram would be anxious to shake off his connection with Mohammed Raza Khan and Inkuppa Naik, and would pretend to no share either in the past conduct or future designs of those persons.

14. I enquired whether the Nizam would be willing to authorize the execution of the measures which the Minister proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. The Minister said that he had no reason to suppose that His Highness would object to them. That His Highness was much offended at the late depredations committed in the Gulbarga districts, and must naturally feel anxious to realize the sums due from the Sholapoor country, and it was manifest that neither His Highness's territories, could be secured from the repetition of similar outrages nor the Sholapoor Paishkush collected, without the Government of that country were peaceably settled. I enquired whether His Highness were distinctly informed of the nature and extent of Mahipat Ram's proceedings at Sholapoor. The Minister replied that intelligence of Mahipat Ram's proceedings had been regularly conveyed to the Nizam, but His Highness had manifested no inclination to attend to them as long as those transactions did not interfere with the tranquillity of those territories, that now His Highness must be made sensible of the propriety of restraining the further proceedings of a man who had been the original cause of the very outrage of which His Highness so much complained.

15. I next requested the Minister to inform me what were precisely the measures which he intended to pursue for the settlement of a Sholapoor country. The Minister replied that the first object was to secure the western districts from the depredations of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, which object he thought would be immediately accomplished by the march of His Highness's troops towards Gulbarga. It was then his design to employ the troops in restoring Rajah Pid Naik to his legitimate authority and in replacing Timmappa in the Dewani. The families of Ped Naik and Timmappa were in the custody of Mahipat Ram at Shahpoor and might be delivered up to the Officer Commanding the Nizam's troops. Timmappa would accompany the detachment and would be prepared to exercise his influence over the inhabitants of Sholapoor and the principal persons near Ped Naik to desert the cause of Inkuppa and assist in restoring their master to his legitimate authority. Rajah Mahipat Ram would be directed to restore the families,

jewels and other personal property of Ped Naik and Timmappa to Nizamat Jung and Major Gordon, and would be cautioned not to assist or protect Inkuppa Naique or Mohammed Raza Khan and if those persons resisted to peaceable execution of those measures it would be necessary to attack and disperse their parties.

16. I observed that successful execution of the proposed plan would depend upon the following points: 1st the Line of conduct which would be pursued by Raja Mahipat Ram; 2nd. the degree of influence possessed by Timmappa over the principal persons in Sholapoor and 3rd. the number of troops which Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raja Khan would collect for the purpose of resisting the execution of the proposed measures. I, therefore, begged leave to enquire what information the Minister possessed upon those points.

17. The Minister said in reply, that he was well assured that Rajah Mahipat Ram would be sensible of the necessity of obeying any orders that he might receive from the Nizam and that he would not incur the fatal consequences of maintaining his association with Inkuppa Naik. 2nd That he had every reason to conclude that Timmappa possessed considerable influence over the Sholapoor country, and would be capable of effecting the whole arrangement without the assistance of any troops if Inkuppa Naik were not supported by the parties under Mohammed Raza Khan. Nabi Yar Jung and Sadooloh Khan. 3rd. That the body of troops of all discreption collected under Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan and their associates did not exceed five thousand and would not be capable of opposing the detachment, that it was intended to send from Hyderabad.

18. I asked what steps the Minister intended to take for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the Nizam to the system of measures which he proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. The Minister stated that he was too feeble to attend the Durbar himself, that his arzees would not be read by the Nizam, and that the representations of Rajah Chandulal had not that weight with His Highness which the importance of such a communication required. He, therefore, was solicitous that I should wait upon the Nizam for the purpose of submitting to His Highness a plain statement of the circumstances which had occurred at Sholapoor and of demonstrating the policy and propriety of the measures which were proposed for the settlement of that country.

19. I said that as I entirely agreed with Minister in the policy and propriety of those measures, I should be happy to recommend their immediate adoption to the Nizam but that it would be incumbent upon me to expose the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and to comment without reason upon the nature of his conduct for the last twelve months at Sholapoor. That I was

डॉ. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार;
ग्रंथ संग्रह

not particularly interested in the fate of the Sholapoor country but that when I considered the character, sentiments and designs of Mahipat Ram and the circumstances which led to his dismission from Berar and his banishment to Shapoor I could not but feel great jealousy at his being suffered to maintain a considerable body of troops about his person, in defiance of the Minister's orders and of his own positive engagements to retain secretly under his influence military commanders who had been dismissed from the Nizam's service for the contumacy of their conduct, to excite and direct a revolution in the Government of a neighbouring country with which he had not the slightest pretence of interference, to control afterwards the affairs of the new Government thus established by himself, to maintain an extensive correspondence in every place where his intrigues could become dangerous, and to persist in a secret intercourse with the Nizam, which His Highness had solemnly pledged himself to discontinue. I, therefore, thought it of much more importance to those general interests which were committed to my charge, that some final arrangement should take effect, to place Rajah Mahipat Ram in the condition prescribed in the paper of agreement that had been signed by the Nizam, that the Rajah of Sholapoor should be withdrawn form the influence of Inkuppa Naique, because any plan for the settlement of the Sholapoor country, would be precarious as long as Mahipat Ram was left at liberty and with means to control the actions of the Rajah of Sholapoor. As long as Mahipat Ram in a state of ostensible disgrace and banishment was permitted to retain a large body of troops, either immediately or indirectly attached to his interests, as long as he was suffered without authority and without right to exercise a supreme control over the neighbouring country, it would be vain to check that influence at Hyderabad and in Berar which it was the principal object of the British Government to destroy. I should, therefore, be happy to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing in respectful terms to the Nizam my opinion of the late proceedings of Raja Mahipat Ram in order to prevail upon His Highness to authorize some arrangement to be made which should place that person in the exact situation intended by the stipulation regarding him in the paper of Agreements that had been ratified by the Nizam. I felt the greatest anxiety to effect this point, on the present occasion, because I was perfectly assured that such an arrangement would be the most certain mode of accomplishing the objects, which the Minister had in view for the settlement of the Sholapoor country.

20. The Minister observed that he had long been sensible of the necessity of placing Rajah Mahipat Ram in the situation which was described in the paper of agreements, and he thought I should render an important service to the harmony and repose of this Government, if I could prevail on the Nizam to sanction such a measure; for, it was evident that the present situation of Mahipat Ram was by no means of such a nature as to prevent him

from exercising an extensive and dangerous influence or of prosecuting active measures without the sanction and authority of this Government. The Minister then complained in very severe terms of the encouragement given by the Nizam to Mahipat Ram contrary to the His Highness's solemn engagements and to the declarations which he was in the daily habit of making. The Minister said that Mahipat Ram paid no attention to the repeated orders which had been issued to him for the dismissal of the troops, which he retained about his person exclusively of the parties that belonged to Mohammed Raza Khan, Nabi Yar Jung and Sadulla Khan. That he affected to treat the Ministers and the principal Omrahs at Court with the greatest contempt, prided himself upon being placed beyond the reach of the regular authority of Government by his influence with the Nizam, and proclaimed himself to be the leader of a party hostile to the interests of the British Government.

21. It was finally determined that I should wait upon the Nizam for the purpose of conveying to His Highness my sentiments respecting the conduct of Mahipat Ram and of effecting some arrangement which might in future restrain that person from exercising a dangerous influence over the Nizam's territories and from pursuing any active measures injurious to the tranquillity and interest of the state.

22. I trust that your Lordship would approve of my affording my consent and countenance to the plan which the Minister proposes for the settlement of the Sholapoor country because I am assured that his plan is absolutely necessary to the security of His Highness's south-western districts and to the regulation of the legitimate rights of this Government over the Rajah of Sholapur and because the adoption of such a plan may avoid the necessity of affording to this Government that Military assistance which His Highness may require from the British Government in the event of the continuance and increase of the power that has been obtained and exercised by Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan.

23. I also hope that it will appear manifest to your Lordship that it is incumbent on me to notice the late proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and to insist on the satisfactory completion of the arrangement with regard to that person, which formed the principal object of those important measures that were pursued at this court in the latter end of the year 1806 and on the beginning of the succeeding year.

Letter No. 7.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Elphinstone. In this enclosure Sydenham reports to the Governor-General the details of the negotiation between the minister and the Nizam assisted by him on the one hand, and Mahipat Ram on the other. He narrates how at first Mahipat Ram showed himself agreeable to the terms of peace but later changed his mind, attacked the Nizam's troops aided by a small detachment of the Subsidiary force and defeated them. The agent of the Resident Mr. Gordon, who had been negotiating the terms was put to death and a few Europeans were either killed or wounded in the battle. A strong deatchment of the Subsidiary force was, therefore, sent immediately.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hyderabad, the 25th February 1808.

I now proceed to lay before your Lordship a narrative of the proceedings of Mr. Palmer, in the conduct of the Mission, on which he was employed by the Minister of His Highness the Nizam.

2. It is proper to notice that Mr. Palmer was deputed by Meer Allum to Shapoor, at the particular request and repeated solicitation of Rajah Mahipat Ram, and that His Highness the Nizam had expressed his pleasure that Mr. Palmer should be so employed.

3. Mr. Palmer was instructed by Meer Allum to conclude an arrangement with Rajah Mahipat Ram on the following conditions:—

(1) That Rajah Mahipat Ram should deliver up the families, jewels and personal property of the Rajah of Sholapoor and of his Deewan Timmappa Naik.

(2) That he should dissolve his connection with Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, Nabi Yar Jung and other adherents, and that he should not either directly or indirectly afford assistance, encouragement or protection to those persons.

(3) That he should desist from all further interference in the Government of the Sholapoor country and that he should promise to take no part in future in the affairs of the Rajah of Sholapoor.

(4) That he should immediately dismiss all his troops, with the exception of five hundred Infantry.

(5) That he should give satisfactory security for the payment of the balance which he himself had acknowledged to be due to this Government. Upon these conditions Mahipat Ram was to be allowed to retain his personal Jagheers, to receive Rs. 2,600 as an allowance to himself, his nephew Shreepat Ram and other members of his family, and to maintain 500 Infantry for which he was to be paid 4,500 Rupees a month. He was likewise to receive from the proper officer of account, a general release from all claims upon him.

4. These conditions will no doubt appear to your Lordship not only reasonable but liberal. Mahipat Ram was only called upon to deliver up families and property, which he has seized without authority, and without the slightest pretence of right. He was to dissolve a connection, which he had repeatedly and solemnly disowned; he was not to afford assistance or protection to the public enemies of the state. He was to dismiss troops, which he had no right to maintain. He was to desist from an unauthorized and unjust interference in the Government and concerns of a Zamindar, whose dependence on his state is confined to the payment of an annual tribute, and he was to pay a balance of public money which he himself acknowledged to be due to this Government. These conditions were not only necessary to the future tranquillity of this country, but they do not contain one stipulation which could be considered to be injurious to the honour or offensive to the feelings of Mahipat Ram. Upon these conditions every propositions of Mahipat Ram was acceded to, and he was only to be placed in that situation to which the Nizam had deliberately consented at the desire of the British Government more than 12 months ago.

5. Mr. Palmer was likewise directed by the Minister to endeavour to prevail upon Inkuppah Naik, to leave Mohammad Raza Khan and return to Hyderabad, where the Minister promised that Inkuppa should be suffered to live without molestation on a pension of 22,000 Rupees per annum.

6. But the Minister insisted no terms should be granted to Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee who had behaved with great insolence or contumacy, had treated with contempt all the orders that had been sent to recall him from Shahpoor, had relinquished the Nizam's service and had since attacked the possessions of his former sovereign. Meer Allum had, therefore, resolved that the detachment should be employed in compelling Mohammed Raza Khan to quit the Nizam's territories and the district of Sholapoor, and if necessary to disperse the party of bandittee and adventurers that had been collected under his standard.

7. The detachment under the command of Nizamat Jang and Mr. Gordon marched to Narainpeth a place about 20 miles from Eidgarh on the road to Shahpoor where it was to remain until Mahipat Ram had concluded an arrangement with Mr. Palmer, and this measure was adopted at the particular solicitation of Mahipat Ram to mark that the Minister had no designs against

the persons and property of Mahipat Ram. But it was distinctly made known to Mahipat Ram that the detachment would proceed to Eidgarh and advance to the westward in the event of Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee re-entering the territories of the Nizam or the district of Sholapoor, or of any resistance being made to the complete re-establishment of the Rajah's authority.

8. When Mr. Palmer left Hyderabad Meer Allum directed him to report his proceedings to him in the Persian language, and also to keep me regularly informed of them. This circumstance enabled me to lay before your Lordship a copious narrative of Mr. Palmer's proceedings written by himself at Shahpoor, and contained in a series of letters which I have taken the liberty to forward by the present despatch. It will occur to your Lordship that these letters were written in great haste, under very distressing circumstances and not supposed by Mr. Palmer to be likely to be submitted to Government, but they contain so full and so faithful an account of his proceedings and of the conduct of Rajah Mahipat Ram, that I have considered it to be proper to lay them all before your Lordship in their original state.

9. I have also been induced to submit to your Lordship's notice the several private letters which I wrote to Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Gordon, on the subject of Mahipat Ram's proposals, and the settlement of the Sholapoor country. Those officers received their orders and instructions from Meer Allum, but at his request as well as that of His Highness the Nizam, I corresponded with them on every subject connected with the service on which they were employed.

10. As the object of Mr. Palmer's deputation has been defeated by the unexpected treachery and violence of Rajah Mahipat Ram, and as it has become necessary to employ a part of the Subsidiary force to reduce that person to subjection, it is proper that I should review the conduct of Mahipat Ram since the period that Mr. Palmer arrived at Shahpoor and should offer to your Lordship such observations and reflection as occur to me on the present delicate crisis of our interests at this court.

11. Mr. Palmer arrived at Shahpoor on the 22nd January. At their first meeting Mahipat Ram made assurances of a ready compliance with all the wishes of this Government. He manifested no objections to the immediate delivery of the Rajah of Sholapore's son and he promised to restore the family of Timmapa.

12. It may be proper to notice that Mahipat Ram had detained the son of Ped Naik as a security for the payment of a sum of money pretended to be due by Ped Naik to Mahipat Ram But Mr. Palmer ascertained that the money was not received by Ped Naik from Mahipat Ram, but that Ped Naik had been compelled

to sign a bond for the amount on the plea of the money, being due to Mohammed Raza Khan. It should be remembered that Mahipat Ram continued to levy money on the Sholapoor country for the payment of this pretended debt. From this process your Lordship will be able to judge of the nature of the control exercised by Mahipat Ram over the Sholapoor country, and of the shallow artifice by which he attempts to avoid the appearance of direct interference. Rajah Ped Naik is compelled to sign a bond acknowledging a debt to Mohammed Raza Khan on account of arrears of pay to his quota of troops. Mahipat Ram undertakes to collect this money, from the Sholapoor country, and employs his troops for that purpose and he seizes the son of Ped Naik as a security that no opposition should be made to the payment of this contribution.

13. Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that Mr. Palmer in his first interview, acquaints Mahipat Ram that if Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan should remain in the field it will be necessary to Mahipat Ram's security and good name that he retires to whatever fort Meer Allum may choose to point out meaning by this that Mahipat Ram will avoid the suspicion of taking any share in the future conduct of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan.

14. Mr. Palmer was induced to consent to Mahipat Ram's retaining his troops, until a release from all demands upon him should be procured from the Sirkar, and on the other hand Mahipat Ram promised to recall such of his troops as were employed in collecting money from the Sholapoor country.

15. By a subsequent letter from Mr. Palmer it would appear that Mahipat Ram repeatedly failed on his promise to deliver up the family of Timmapah, and that Mr. Palmer, in consequence, resolved to leave Shahpoor. That Mahipat Ram induced Mr. Palmer to remain by fresh promise and again received him.

16. During this interval Mahipat Ram recalled Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan from the Mahrattah territories and they consequently moved back towards Shahpoor by forced marches. When Mr. Palmer received intelligence of the return of those troops, he advised Mr. Gordon to advance to the westward, as the position and movements of Inkuppah's army threatened Sholapoor. When Mahipat Ram had been joined by Mohammed Raza Khan, he assumed an imperious and menacing tone of language, and even threatened to attack the Nizam's detachment before it should cross the river Beema. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that Mahipat Ram had been amusing Mr. Palmer by promises and assurances of obedience until he should be supported by the large body of troops collected under Inkuppah and Mohammed Raza Khan.

17. However by subsequent advises from Mr. Palmer, it appeared that Mahipat Ram was fully sensible of the imprudence and impropriety of his conduct, and was seriouly disposed to yield

. . . . obedience to the orders of this Government. He addressed an Arzee to Meer accompanied by a paper continuing on the following proposals:—

(1) That he was to be allowed 500 Foot and 2,600 Rupees a month for himself and his friends, to retain his former Jagheers and to have a district settled upon him, the Revenue of which should be equivalent to the amount of his pension and the maintenance of the 500 foot.

(2) In case the Meer objects to confer a district upon him he proposes to retire to Benares on a pension of 5,000 Rupees a month.

(3) If the pension be not granted he proposes to receive a general permission to seek his fortune and to go withersoever he chooses.

18. Meer Allum immediately acceded to the 2nd proposal and promised that the monthly allowance of 5,000 Rupees should be regularly paid in the manner most convenient and agreeable to Mahipat Ram. Meer Allum did not express any desire to insist upon the delivery of Inkuppah Naik or upon any retribution for the injuries that had been committed either in the Sholapur country or the territories of the Nizam. In fact the Minister was so anxious to induce Mahipat Ram to leave these territories and retire to Benares that he was very scrupulous not to raise any objection that might prevent Mahipat Ram from the immediate execution of his plan.

19. But it became necessary to obtain His Highness the Nizam's consent to Mahipat Ram's proposals and I accordingly proposed to the Minister that I should wait upon His Highness for the purpose of demonstrating the propriety of his granting permission to Mahipat Ram to retire with all his family to Benares.

20. It was some time before I could procure an audience of His Highness who appeared to be desirous to avoid receiving my visit though the intervention of the Koorban Feast affording plausible excuse for the delay which occurred. At length I was invited to the Durbar, where I found Meer Allum and Chandu Lal.

21. When the Minister had communicated to the Nizam the account of Mr. Palmer's proceedings and of Máhipat Ram's proposals His Highness asked me what I thought upon the subject. I replied that I did not perceive my particular objection to either the 1st or 2nd proposal, but that I preferred the latter. His Highness enquired why I preferred the second proposal. I replied because it would remove from these territories a person who had manifested a dangerous spirit of intrigue and restlessness, and had repeatedly interrupted the harmony and good understanding, which ought to subsist between the two states. I then reviewed in a rapid manner, the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct, since my arrival at Hyderabad, and particularly insisted on the insolence, injustice and violence of his late proceedings at Shahpoor. His Highness remarked that precautions might be taken to restrain the future conduct of Mahipat

Ram. I told His Highness in the plainest terms that I should have no confidence in such precautions, and that I could place no faith in the assurances and promises however solemn of Mahipat Ram. I said that Benares was, of all places, the most proper for the retirement of a Hindu, that Mahipat Ram in addition to his private fortune, would receive a liberal income from this Government, that he would live in security and affluence under the immediate protection of the Company, that the plan proposed by Mahipat Ram was the most prudent that he could adopt, for I was well assured that if he remained in these territories, he would not rest until he had involved himself in difficulty and danger, or had produced some serious misunderstanding between His Highness and the British Government.

22. His Highness's reluctance to the proposal seemed to abate after he had heard my sentiments on the subject, and he authorized Meer Allum to acquaint Mahipat Ram, that he would permit him to retire to Benares if he still continued desirous to leave these territories. His Highness also desired me to write to that effect to Mr. Palmer.

23. His Highness then remarked with an air of apparent concern, that the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct, of which I had complained had been occasioned by a difference of opinion between His Highness and Meer Allum. I observed that I had witnessed with deep regret, the existence of that difference, to which His Highness with his usual wisdom and magnanimity would not recur to what had past, but would now be cordially reconciled to a servant, who merited His Highness's most implicit confidence.

24. His Highness observed that Meer Allum would never listen to his advice nor concede with him in opinion. The Meer said he was not conscious of even having rejected the advice or disobeyed the orders of his sovereign and he trusted that His Highness would at least condescend to point out an instance of his obstinacy or disobedience. His Highness considered for some time and at length to my great surprize asked the Minister what was the answer that he had given to the question respecting the difference between a father-in-law and a son-in-law. The minister said that the best of his recollection he had replied that there was no difference provided they were friends. His Highness looked to me with an air of much confidence as if I could no longer doubt of the existence of that difference of opinion to which he had alluded. But I observed that I did not pretend to understand the object of the question, and that it appeared to me to be totally unconnected with the subject before us.

25. His Highness continued his complaint, by stating that after my arrival he had been solicitous to retain Mahipat Ram at Hyderabad, but Meer Allum had insisted on sending him to Berar. The consequence was that Mahipat Ram had rendered himself obnoxious to the British Government. When Mahipat Ram was removed from Berar His Highness wished that he should be brought

to the city. That the Minister had insisted on his being sent to Shahpoor. The consequence was that Mahipat Ram had effected a change in the affairs of the Sholapoor country, to re-establish which it had become necessary to employ a military force. His Highness had expressed his wish that Mahipat Ram should be accompanied to Berar by two battalions of the Subsidiary Force, but this proposal had been over-ruled by the Minister's objection. If two battalions had been stationed in Berar it would have been impossible for Mahipat Ram to have engaged in any improper designs. If he had been kept at Hyderabad instead of being sent to Berar, or had returned to Hyderabad, instead of being sent to Shahpoor the present unpleasant extremity would have been avoided. If Mahipat Ram was of a dangerous character, he ought not to have been entrusted with power, and he ought not to have been suffered to remain at liberty to prosecute his designs. It was Meer Allum who had entrusted him with so much power and had raised to so eminent a station, and it was Meer Allum who prevented his being confined to the city of Hyderabad. Such were the arguments employed by the Nizam who very distinctly informed that the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct was to be attributed to the Minister's obstinate rejection of his Sovereign's advice.

26. The Minister replied at length to all these accusations and indeed it did not require much strength of argument to refute so absurd and perverted a train of charges. In the first place the Minister asserted that he had not placed Mahipat Ram in the charge of the province of Berar, and that he had not invited him to Hyderabad. That after Mahipat Ram's arrival he acquired the exclusive confidence of the Nizam and he gradually assumed an entire control over the administration of this country. That Mahipat Ram, therefore, was indebted for his elevation to His Highness's patronage and favour, and not to the Minister's assistance or support. That the British Resident had repeatedly urged the propriety of sending Mahipat Ram to Berar, because he had no ostensible employment in Hyderabad but had a most extensive and important charge in that province. That the Resident would not accede to the proposal of detaching two Battalions with Mahipat Ram to Berar, because such a measure did not appear necessary at that time, and because the Governor-General had insisted that this Government should employ its own troops for the security and defence of its territories. That the Resident had suggested the removal of Mahipat Ram to Shahpoor and would have remonstrated against the proposal of bringing that person to Hyderabad; that all those arrangements had been discussed with His Highness by the Resident or in his presence by the Ministers of the Government and that they had been sanctioned and ratified by His Highness himself. That no person suspected the hostile disposition of Mahipat Ram when he left Hyderabad, but after he had betrayed his character and designs in Berar he had been removed from all employment and banished to Shahpore. That since his arrival at Shahpoor the most minute information of his proceedings had

been communicated to His Highness but His Highness was pleased not to pay any attention to that information, nor to sanction the adoption of certain measures of precaution, which had been advised by His Highness's ministers. The Minister then said that he felt much distressed at having subjected himself to such grave complaints from His Highness, that he was devoted to His Highness's service and considered his property and life to be at His Highness's disposal but as long as he was entrusted with the administration of the country it was incumbent on him to offer his advice honestly and unreservedly, and that it remained with His Highness to listen, or not to the advice of his servants. The Minister took God to witness that he coveted neither riches nor employment if His Highness wished to appoint another Minister he would cheerfully act under him, to the best of his ability; or if His Highness chose to dispense with his services altogether, he was prepared to retire from the world, and pass the remainder of his life in solitude and prayer.

27. His Highness appeared impatient to drop the subject, and said that they should so manage as not to differ hereafter, in order to prevent the reoccurrence of such transactions as had recently happened.

28. I considered it proper to confirm what the Minister had stated, with respect to the share I had taken in all the arrangements, regarding Mahipat Ram which I assured His Highness were strictly consonant with the wishes and instructions of the Governor-General.

29. The singular question respecting the difference between a father-in-law and son-in-law to which His Highness alluded refers to Meer Allum and Moonir Ool Moolk, for the Nizam has always been jealous of the intimacy and cordiality that subsists between them. The other accusations preferred by the Nizam against the Minister, are founded upon a conception strongly impressed on the mind of His Highness by Mahipat Ram and his friends; that all the measures against Mahipat Ram originated with the Minister and were merely acceded to by the Resident.

30. I shall now resume the narrative of Mr. Palmer's proceedings at Shahpoor. As soon as I had ascertained that the Minister was anxious to comply with the proposal of Mahipat Ram, to retire to Benares, I wrote to Mr. Palmer a letter dated the 4th of February, which is the second in the enclosed series of my correspondence to that gentleman. In that letter and in a subsequent one dated the 6th of February I acquainted Mr. Palmer with the Minister's assent to Mahipat Ram's proposals and I added such assurances on my part as I thought were likely to convince Mahipat Ram of the ease and security with which he would be suffered to live under the protection of the British Government. Rajah Chandu Lal wrote Persian Letters nearly to the same effect both to Mahipat Ram and to Mr. Palmer. From Mr. Palmer's letter of the 10th February, it appeared that Rajah Mahipat Ram was highly gratified by my compliance, with his proposal to retire to Benares

as it was the first object of his heart. Nothing therefore remained to be done but to procure the Nizam's sanction to the proposal which was obtained in general terms, at the interview which I had with His Highness, and the particulars of which I have already described. His Highness's determination on the subject was communicated to Mahipat Ram and to Mr. Palmer by Rajah Chandulal, and by me to Mr. Palmer in a letter dated the 11th of February. But circumstances which I shall hereafter describe prevented these letters from reaching Shahpoor.

31. It will now be proper to direct your Lordship's attention to the movements of the Nizam's detachment and to the proceedings of Mr. Palmer for the re-establishment of Rajah Ped Naik's authority over the country of Sholapoor.

32. It was always very evident that no satisfactory or permanent arrangement could be made for the settlement of the Sholapoor country until the predatory troops of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan should be dispersed. The number of those troops were estimated and I believe with tolerable accuracy at four thousand men and they consisted of Sindees, Arabs, Rohillas, a few Siddies, and a number of adventurers collected by Inkuppah Naik from the districts bordering on either side of the frontier which divides the Nizam's from the Peshwa's possessions. The heavy contributions levied by Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan had almost exhausted the Sholapoor country and they had therefore been compelled to subsist their troops by depredations, on the country belonging to the Nizam and the Peshwa. Whenever Mahipat Ram should dismiss his troops, it was reasonable to conclude that they would flock for service and subsistence to the standards of Inkuppah and Mohammed Raza Khan. If those persons should attempt to repeat their depredations on the Peshwa's territories it was certain that the Mahrattah Chieftains would collect their troops for the protection of their districts and although Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan might evacuate the Sholapoor country on the approach of the Nizam's detachment they would be prepared to return as soon as the Nizam's troops should be withdrawn. It would therefore become absolutely necessary to station a large body of troops to the westward, both for the protection of the Nizam's territories, and for the security of those arrangements which the Minister proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. The Minister had the strongest expectation (which has since been fulfilled) that Inkuppa would be compelled to leave Mohammed Raza Khan and return to Hyderabad. The whole party of freebooters would therefore remain under the command and direction of Mohammed Raza Khan, a daring soldier of fortune, who acknowledged no superior, is in the service of no Government and who would subsist his troops by plunder. To these considerations of prudence may be added the political importance of inflicting a severe chastizement upon a subordinate commander who had first relinquished the service of the state with every circumstance of insolence and contumacy, and had afterwards attacked the possessions of the Nizam in an open unprovoked manner.

33. When I called upon the Minister he pointed out with great strength and clearness of arguments the immediate necessity of attacking that body of freebooters of whose return to the neighbourhood of Shahpoor he had just received intelligence, both from Mr. Palmer and the Rajah of Sholapoor. I enquired whether the troops of the Nizam were in sufficient number to venture to attack the opposite party. Both the Minister and Chandu Lal assured me that the Detachment consisted of 5,500 men and that it would shortly be reinforced by another body of 2,000 horse. The Minister then instructed his Moonshi to prepare orders to be addressed to Nizamat Jung and Mr. Gordon directing them to seize the first favourable opportunity of attacking the troops under Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan. The Minister likewise requested that I would write to the same effect to Mr. Gordon and furnish that Gentleman with such advice as I judged expedient.

34. I accordingly wrote a letter to Mr. Gordon, dated the 4th February and marked it No. 3 in which I pointed out the political importance of destroying the party of Mohammed Raza Khan, and offered my sentiments on the probability of the success of such a measure. In that letter I stated to Mr. Gordon that not having obtained any accurate account of the force with him or of the number of the party under the Sindee, I was not capable of deciding upon the prudence of attacking him. I also gave him to understand that the measures which I had recommended must be left to his discretion, as he was the only person capable of determining whether they could be adopted with probability of success, not to hazard anything unnecessarily as it would be better to wait a little than to risk the danger and disgrace of defeat. In a letter of the same date to Mr. Palmer (No. 3) I observed that such an attack should not be attempted without the almost certainty of giving the Sindee a complete defeat.

35. This measure was proposed in the confidence that Rajah Mahipat Ram would have yielded an implicit obedience to those orders of the Nizam which direct that he should not afford any assistance, encouragement or protection to Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan or any of their adherents. The readiness with which he delivered up the son of Ped Naik, and his having at length released the family of Timmappa ; his Arzee and proposition to the Minister, after he had been joined by Mohammed Raza Khan; the confidence with which Mr. Palmer spoke of his desire to retire to Benares, and the disposition of Mahipat Ram, which was notoriously adverse to any measure that might be attended with personal danger, these considerations prevented either the Ministers or myself from suspecting that he would be guilty of such treachery and violence as to renounce all his engagements and join the public enemies of the state.

36. It appeared from Mr. Palmer's letters of the 31st January No. 4, that Inkuppa Naik had manifested a desire to leave Mohammed Raza Khan, but was restrained by his troops on account of the arrears of pay that were due to them. However Mohammed Raza

Khan was persuaded by Mahipat Ram to grant to Inkuppah an acquittance in full of all demands, which enabled Inkuppah to escape from his camp and throw himself under the protection of Mr. Gordon. He was received by Mr. Gordon and sent under a guard to Hyderabad where he has since remained. The troops immediately attached to Inkuppah, separated from Mohammed Raza Khan after Inkuppah's flight, but it has since been ascertained that many of them were taken into the service of Mahipat Ram, and were present at the late action before Shahpore.

37. In the same letter Mr. Palmer writes that Mohammed Raza Khan had agreed to withdraw his troops, but required that he should be allowed to remain at Shahpoor, three or four days for the arrangement of his private affairs. By this agreement Mohammed Raza Khan ought to have quitted Shapoor on the 3rd or 4th of February.

38. When that period had elapsed and Mohammed Raza Khan had shown no disposal to move, Mr. Palmer again called upon Mahipat Ram, who, on the 7th February, solemnly engaged that Mohammed Raza Khan should positively quit Shahpoor on the following day the 8th instant.

39. On the 8th February Mr. Palmer went out to Edgarh to meet Mr. Gordon and whilst he was there Mr. Gordon received the minister's orders and my letter recommending him to attack the party under Mohammed Raza Khan. As Mahipat Ram had made such solemn assurances that Mohammed Raza should quit Shahpoor on that very day Mr. Palmer prevailed upon Mr. Gordon to remain at Edgarh during the ninth; in order that a scrupulous adherence might be shown to the engagements, that had been entered into the preceding day. Mr. Palmer resolved to return to Shahpoor on the night of the 8th to communicate to Mahipat Ram, the orders that had been received from Meer Allum, and to point out the absolute necessity of immediately obliging Mohammed Raza Khan to leave the neighbourhood of Shahpoor.

40. Mr. Palmer accordingly went to Shahpoor accompanied by Rai Balchand, the principal Mootesuddie with the Nizam's troops. Mr. Palmer saw Mahipat Ram at 1 or 2 O'Clock of the morning of the 9th and called upon him in the strongest terms to remove Mohammed Raza Khan. Mr. Palmer told him that he had no alternative left but to give Mr. Palmer his dismissal or to compel the Sindee to quit Shahpoor and Mr. Palmer distinctly informed him that Mr. Gordon would move forward to attack Mohammed Raza Khan on the 10th February. Mahipat Ram at length complied with Mr. Palmer's requisition and Mohammed Raza Khan was induced to change his ground. When Mahipat Ram expressed some alarm lest the Nizam's troops should be employed against him, Mr. Palmer gave him the strongest assurances of protection from the British Resident and entered into a written agreement with him upon which Mahipat Ram appeared satisfied and repeated his promises that Mohammed Raza Khan should move on the 10th.

41. When Mr. Palmer and Balchand were taking their leave of Mahipat Ram their persons were insulted and their lives menaced by armed men, in the service of Mahipat Ram and who appear to have been under the immediate direction of his nephew Shreepat Ram. Mr. Palmer seems however, to have behaved with great coolness, determination and dignity, and was at length suffered to return to his tents. On the morning of the 10th Mr. Palmer was informed that Mahipat Ram had embraced all his principal officers and that they had sworn to defend one another with their lives. At nine O'Clock Mr. Palmer required Mahipat Ram to fulfil his promise of dismissing Mohammed Raza Khan, but Mahipat Ram returned evasive answer as to the requisition manifestly with a view to amuse Mr. Palmer and to gain time. Mr. Palmer was then suddenly informed that Mahipat Ram had ordered his troops to move out of the fort. The life of Mr. Palmer was again menaced by bodies of armed men and evasive answers were given to his repeated message for permission to leave Shahpoor. At length Mahipat Ram moved out with his troops and permitted Mr. Palmer to leave Shahpoor. These several circumstances are described at length in Mr. Palmer's letter (No.7), dated at Suntee the 11th February.

42. In reply to my letter to Mr. Gordon, dated the 4th of February I received a letter from that Gentleman, dated the 11th of the month, from which it appears that he considered it imprudent to attempt the attack of Mohammed Raza Khan's party, as long as it should remain so strongly posted under the walls of the Pettah of Shahpoor. He therefore seems to have determined not to come to any action with the opposite party, until he should drive them out of their strong position. Mr. Gordon likewise states his opinion that his Infantry would not be able to take the Pettah, and that no Army of the Nizam's would be able to carry the fortress of Shahpoor. Under these circumstances he recommends that a detachment from the Subsidiary force should march to the westward.

43. The tenor of the last advices from Mr. Palmer and Mr. Gordon placed the situation of affairs at Shahpoor on a very different footing and it became necessary to consider what further measures should be adopted to compel Mahipat Ram to renounce his association with Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and to destroy the parties that had been collected under their standards. The union of Mahipat Ram's force with that of Mohammed Raza Khan, the possession of such a fortress as that of Shahpoor, the treachery and insolence of Mahipat Ram's conduct, his pecuniary resources and extensive influence, all these considerations induced me to propose to the Minister to detach a portion of the Subsidiary Force to Shahpoor which in conjunction with the Nizam's troops would enable this Government either to compel Mahipat Ram to abide by his former proposals or to disperse the large band of freebooters that were collected under him and Mohammed Raza Khan.

44. The Minister acceded to my proposition though he did not consider it to be necessary, for he persevered in thinking that Mahipat Ram would not dare to afford Mohammed Raza Khan open assistance, and that if his troops should co-operate with those of the Sindee the Nizam's detachment was perfectly capable of defeating their united force. While we were arguing this point, a camel Hircarrah arrived with a short note to me from Mr. Palmer, dated at Edghur the 12th of February communicating intelligence of the complete defeat of the Nizam's detachment.

45. I beg leave to refer to a subsequent letter from Mr. Palmer No. 8, dated also the 12th February at Edghur for a more circumstantial account of this unfortunate action. I have since collected all the information that I could upon the subject and conceive the following to be a tolerably accurate statement of the affair. It is certain that on the 11th Mr. Gordon had no intention of provoking an action with the enemy. However he thought proper on the morning of the 12th to move towards Shahpoor both for the purpose of showing the enemy that he would not decline an action and of ascertaining the nature of their position near Shahpoor. But every account I have received leads me to conclude that Mr. Gordon did not intend to fight the enemy without he were previously attacked by them. His force consisted of 1,300 Infantry with 5 Guns and 3,000 Horse. He continued to advance towards Shahpoor till he came within sight of the enemy, who had marched out of their encampment, advanced nearly two miles from the Pettah of Shahpoor and were drawn up in three distinct bodies. Mr. Gordon immediately formed his line of Infantry and stationed all his horse on the right of his Infantry. When Mr. Palmer who was considerably in front of the line with a small party of those observed a body of the enemy moving down towards him, he advanced and attacked it, but being opposed by very superior numbers he was compelled to retreat towards the line of Infantry. The enemy then opened their guns, and nearly the whole of the Nizam's Cavalry abandoned their station, retreated with much confusion and drew up about a mile in rear of the Infantry. Mr. Gordon repeatedly ordered them to resume their station but no persuasion could induce them to advance towards the enemy, and they finally quitted the field in great confusion. During their retreat they were harassed by the enemy's horse, and some of them were cut up, and others taken prisoners. In the mean while Mr. Gordon though so shamefully abandoned by nearly all the horse, advanced with great spirit and resolution, drove back the Infantry that was opposed to him, took their guns and captured the howdahed Elephant of Mahipat Ram. But the infantry advanced with no great regularity and were much fatigued and oppressed by their exertions. However at this time it appeared probable that the enemy would retire and Mohammed Raza Khan had been taking some preparatory measures for a retreat. A party of Arabs who were on the left continuing to annoy the Infantry, the Battalion on the left commanded by Mr. Bridges attacked the Arabs in a tumultous manner and the whole line pressed to the left without order or regularity.

This movement completed the confusion of the Infantry, they saw themselves surrounded by large parties of horse, they were panic struck and listened to no command, almost all their European officers were killed or wounded, and the whole line was soon completely dispersed. The Officers killed were Messrs. Bellan, Pearson and Borta Burgh; the wounded were Mr. Bridges and a Portuguese of the name of Ioachem. Mr. Palmer and another Mr. Burgh luckily escaped though they were closely pursued to some distance.

46. I have now the melancholy task of relating the cruel fate of Mr. Gordon. I have not been able to ascertain whether he was wounded or not during the action, but it is certain that he was murdered, soon after the dispersion of the Infantry. It was at first generally reported that he was killed by Shreepat Ram, but there is now every reason to conclude that Raja Mahipat Ram committed this barbarous deed. The native orderly who attended Mr. Gordon, and who is now at Hyderabad, has given me so circumstantial an account of the transaction, that it is scarcely possible to refuse credit to his deliberate testimony. I thought proper to call upon this man for a deposition to the fact, and I have the honour to enclose a copy of that deposition, which was taken in my presence.

47. The sudden and shameful retreat of nearly the whole of the Nizam's cavalry, at the commencement of the action, and before they had suffered from the fire of the enemy, has afforded just grounds for suspicion, that they were guilty of something worse than cowardice. But I should be unwilling to believe that there existed such deep treachery, in so large a body of troops, which were selected for service by Meer Allum and Chandu Lal, and which belong to the lines of the most respectable commanders under this Government, until I had obtained the most satisfactory and unequivocal proof of their guilt. I have not yet been able to form any other conclusion than that which naturally results from their shameful conduct, which may indeed have proceeded from cowardice, as well as from treachery.

48. It is reported and generally believed that Mahipat Ram had issued orders that no Englishman should be spared; he betrayed the greatest anxiety to seize the person of Mr. Palmer; he had given orders that the other prisoners should be put to death; and they owe their preservation from this barbarous sentence to the human and intrepid interference of a Jemadar of Horse named Shaikh Ilahi Buksh. Mahipat Ram celebrated his victory with every circumstance of triumph and exultation. He fired off all the guns at Shahpoor and distributed rice and sugar to the troops and the inhabitants of that place. He spoke to the native prisoners in the highest strain of insolence and asserted that if the yellow Umbaree (meaning the Nizam) came to Shahpoor, he would drive it back to Hyderabad.

49. The Minister appeared much distressed and ashamed at the result of the action, for he had just before spoken in term of highest confidence of the probable conduct of the Nizam's Cavalry. He agreed with me that not a single moment was to be lost in detaching a large portion of the Subsidiary Force against the insurgents. I requested him to communicate immediate information of the event to the Nizam and to state that I should require an audience of His Highness the next morning. In the mean while I wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Montresor desiring that he would call upon me. I made the Colonel acquainted with all the circumstances that led to the late action and I furnished him with what information I possessed of the numbers and description of the enemy. After some deliberation we determined that the detachment from the Subsidiary force should consist of the two Regiments of Cavalry with their Gallopper Guns, five Companies of H. M. 33rd Regiment, two Battalions of Native Infantry with a Brigade of 12 Horses and 3 Brigades 6 Horses together with a due proportion of pioneers Military stores.

50. The next morning I waited upon the Nizam, to whom Meer Allum communicated the particulars of the late action and insisted upon the necessity of immediately employing the most decisive measures for reducing the power of Mahipat Ram. His Highness appeared much astonished at the intelligence but did not express any indignation or concern at the defeat of his troops and shameful conduct of his Cavalry. Indeed if it be fair to judge of his feelings by the expression of his countenance, the intelligence appeared to excite rather an emotion of pleasure than one of concern, in the mind of His Highness. But His Highness was made sensible of the propriety of employing the British troops to quell the Rebellion, and readily consented to the proposal. His Highness enquired what number of troops would proceed to Shahpoor and what number would remain at Hyderabad. After I had communicated that information, His Highness directed the Minister to send some troops of this state whose courage could be depended upon, and to select a proper person to command them. I soon took my leave for the purpose of issuing my orders to Lieutenant Colonel Montresor and of preparing for the equipment of the troops.

51. Every exertion was employed to equip the detachment in the most complete manner. Colonel Montresor proposed to assume the personal command of the detachment, to which of course I readily assented. On the 19th February the troops moved out of their cantonments, and made their first march towards Shahpoor on the 22nd instant.

52. I shall take the earliest opportunity of laying before your Lordship a copy of the transactions with which I furnished Colonel Montresor for the general regulation of his conduct on this delicate and important service.

53. I lost no time in directing Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to collect all the troops he could at Basim and to be prepared to move the southward in case Mahipat Ram should venture to make

his way to the province of Berar and as it may be necessary to Lt. Colonel Doveton to co-operate in the destruction of the insurgents I judged it expedient to place that officer under the immediate orders of Lieut. Colonel Montresor.

54. I likewise communicated intelligence of the late event to the Resident at Poona to whom I took the liberty to suggest that orders should be issued by the Peshwa's Ministers to the Mahratta Commanders near the frontier, directing them to attack any part of the enemy's troops, that should escape from the Nizam's territories and enter the dominions of His Highness the Peshwa.

55. I also conveyed information of the state of affairs at Shahpoor to the Honourable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George and to the Officer Commanding the Ceded districts.

Letter No. 8.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Elphinstone dated the 24th April. In this enclosure Sydenham reports the whereabouts of Mahipat Ram and suggests the possibiltiy of inducing the Sindhia and Holkar to attack him because he carries with him a treasure of 12 lacks. The family of Mahipat Ram in Hyderabad had been arrested and removed to a safe place and all their cash and jewellery had been confiscated. He dwells upon the possible attitude of the Nizam and others in Hyderabad who are not very pleased with the British domination, in case Mahipat Ram attempts an attack on Hyderabad territories with Holkar. For the time being he suggests the withdrawal of the Subsidiary troops from the forward positions they had taken in courses of their pursuit of Mahipat Ram, who had crossed the Nerbudda.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hyderabad, the 21st April 1808.

The last advices from Lieutenant Colonel Montresor, confirm the intelligence of the escape of Mahipat Ram and the insurgents. On the 11th of April they had passed Shendwa, and were proceeding towards the river Nerbudda. It is generally believed that Mahipat Ram will join Holkar, if he should receive any encouragement from that Chieftain to whom he has repeatedly written. I have thought it advisable to address letters to Holkar and have done myself the honour to forward copies of them to the Secretary in the Persian Department. I have likewise communicated to the Resident with Sindhia the most particular information of the conduct and proceedings of Mahipat Ram and copies of my letters, dated respectively the 22nd of March and 19th of April will have been submitted to your Lordship's notice.

2. If Mahipat Ram should not receive encouragement from Holkar, it is supposed that he will either proceed to Jaipur or accompany Mohammed Raza Khan to Sind, but these are merely suppositions, for it is impossible to anticipate the movements of a man who has been driven in ruin and distress from his own country, is completely in the power of a small band of barbarous freebooters, who has no settled plans, and who will be reduced to seek safety wherever he can find it.

3. From the best information that I have been able to procure, the present force with Mahipat Ram does not exceed fifteen hundred men, chiefly Sindees, with a few Arabs. He has with his treasure to the amount of about 12 Lacks of rupees, consisting chiefly of Gold coins and jewels. He is completely at the mercy of the Sindees and if any, does not feel very comfortable to be in the power of such friends. The Sindees are brutal, insolent, daring, and treacherous. They claim the merit of having saved the lives of Mahipat Ram and his nephew, and as the future safety of those persons must depend upon their services, they will not be very moderate in their demands of recompense for their past exertions or of payment for their future services. They are constantly clamorous for pay and rewards and as Mahipat Ram is completely in their power, it will not be easy to satisfy them. I do not believe that Mohammed Raza Khan has any personal attachment to Mahipat Ram, considerations of personal safety would induce him to support Mahipat Ram as long as they remained in the Deccan and were closely pursued by the British troops. But Mohammed Raza Khan who prides himself on his valour and his birth, and affects to call himself the Prince of Sind, can have no great respect for Mahipat Ram, who has no personal courage, and is a mere mootesuddie of a very low description. Indeed Mohammed Raza Khan asserted and exercised a complete superiority before the action at Shahpoor. He took the whole of the large contribution from Sholapoor for himself and his troops. He received a personal gift of one lack of rupees the day before the action, and he collected more than 70,000 Rupees before they quitted Shahpoor. During their march to the northward he has directed all their movements. Sreepat Ram has been actively employed but Mahipat Ram suffered himself to be carried from place to place, deserted by his confidential friends and nearly all his own adherents, exercising authority, and suffering great distress of mind. As long as Mahipat Ram has any treasure, he may still maintain some influence, but the very circumstance of his having treasure may expose him to the treachery of the Sindees and the hostility of freebooters to the northward of the Nerbudda.

4. It has probably occurred to your Lordship to urge Jeswant Rao Holkar to attack Mahipat Ram, to plunder his treasure and to seize his person. Perhaps Dowlat Rao Sindhia who is not very rich in treasure, may be induced to plunder Mahipat Ram. It can scarcely be supposed that they would give him encouragement or protection as they both seem equally poor and equally intent on raising money. The treasure with Mahipat Ram will be a great prize to either of them, and they may at once enrich themselves and render an acceptable service to the British Government.

5. Besides the treasure which he carries with him, Mahipat Ram is generally supposed to possess considerable funds distributed in different parts of India. It is said that he has many lodged with Soucars at Poona, Surat and Benares. He has . . . Lacks of rupees in Company's paper, but I do not know whether it will be legal to restore the property to this Government. The Soucars at Hyderabad have signed a paper in which they agree to the confiscation of all their property in event of its being proved that they have in their charge any of Mahipat Ram's money.

6. As soon as Mahipat Ram and Sreepat Ram had been proclaimed rebels to authority of the Nizam, I suggested to the Minister the propriety of placing their families in strict confinement. The Minister easily . . . the consent of the Nizam to this measure, and His Highness particularly directed that Amanat Ram should be called upon for a statement of his . . . and that of Mahipat Ram's family. A strong guard was placed over their dwelling, and Amanat Ram furnished a statement of money, jewels and personal property amounting to five Lacks of rupees. His Highness ordered the whole of the money and property to be sent to the Treasury. Amanat Ram accordingly paid one Lack and seventy thousand Rupees and sent the jewels and property to the Minister. The principal branches of the family consisting of Amanat Ram, Venkaty Ram, the son of Mahipat Ram about nine years old and the wives of Mahipat Ram and Sreepat Ram, are to be placed in close confinement in the fortress of Ferosnagar. The Minister has permitted the family to take with them a few servants their common ornaments, and some of their domestic utensils, and he intends to allow them a decent maintenance. All the Jaghirs, Pensions and other grants, which were enjoyed by Mahipat Ram and his family will be resumed and the house in the city on which Mahipat Ram had expended a large sum of money will be given to one of the Omrahs at Court. If your Lordship should judge it expedient to require that the family of Mahipat Ram be confined in the Company's territories, I should imagine that the Nizam would not object to such a proposal. This step might operate as a powerful restraint upon the future conduct of Mahipat Ram, it would produce a considerable effect upon the minds of our enemies at this Court, and it would at once secure us against the intrigues of Mahipat Ram's family. Amanat Ram has long carried on the intercourse between the Nizam and Mahipat Ram, he possesses considerable tact and cunning and his whole attention is directed to clandestine intrigue.

7. The next object to attend to is the removal of such persons as we know are favourably inclined towards Mahipat Ram, and will continue to correspond with him. Of these persons Raja Sukroodur is assuredly the most dangerous. It has long been the Minister's intention to deprive him of the districts which are at present under his charge. The balance of revenue which stands against him and for which he is accountable, exceeds 16 Lacks of Rupees. This circumstance will afford a just ground to require his presence at Hyderabad. to settle his accounts. But it is not so certain that he will obey the Minister's order to come to the presence, and therefore I propose to recommend that the measure of ordering him to Hyderabad shall be suspended until there are troops near Beer to enforce his obedience to the Minister's command. If your Lordship should think proper to authorize my withdrawing any of the British troops that are at present in advance, their return to Hyderabad will enable me to assist the Minister in depriving Rajah Sukroodur of his present extensive employment, and in placing those districts in charge of some officer, on whom the Minister can place reliance.

8. We have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of Rajah Rao Rumba and Noorul Omrah. who both rejected the overtures of Mahipat Ram with indignation and contempt. Indeed it does not appear that Mahipat Ram made his overtures after the action at Shahpoor. Rao Ramba immediately communicated them to the Minister and Noorul Omrah directed his agent to assure me that he would not hold any correspondence or intercourse with Mahipat Ram.

9. It is generally supposed that Moontizimood Dowlah, the Killedar of Dowlatabad, is favourably disposed towards Mahipat Ram and that he corresponded with Mahipat Ram through Assaram the father of Mahipat Ram's wife. But this Assaram is now in confinement, and will be sent to some fort. Moontizimood Dowlah is described to be an ignorant profligate and vicious man, and extremely hostile to the British nation. It would certainly be desirable that the fortress of Dowlatabad should be in the custody of some person less avowedly inimical to us, but it will be difficult to persuade the Nizam to remove Moontizimood Dowlah from that situation without your Lordship should particularly request His Highness to do so.

10. There are some other persons of inferior condition who are said to be in the interests of Mahipat Ram, and whom it will be advisable to confine or remove from Berar. These persons are Futteh Chand the Serestadar at Aurangabad, the son of Gangaram Pandit the Naib of Ellichpoor, Moostifa Yar Jung and Sadoolla Khan Pathan commanders in Berar. Futteh Chand will shortly be brought to Hyderabad, the son of Gangaram Pandit is already in confinement and the Minister proposes to withdraw the parties of the two Pathan commanders from Berar.

11. The conduct of Nawab Soobhan Khan has long been very suspicious. He indulges in a very strong language against the British nation, and has manifested great reluctance to obey the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh. But that this may proceed from his character, which is turbulent, sullen and naughty, I do not believe; that he is attached to Mahipat Ram, whom he used to treat with great insolence, and I have not heard that he ever corresponded with Mahipat Ram since the dismissal of that person from Berar.

12. As it is probable that Mahipat Ram has crossed the Nerbudda and has proceeded to the northward, I am anxious to be furnished with instructions respecting the future disposition of the Subsidiary Force. The troops at present in advance consist of the 1st, 2nd and 8th Regiments of Cavalry, 5 Companies of H. M. 33rd Regiment nearly the whole of the artillery and 4th Battalion of Sepoys. The 4th Regiment of Cavalry is by this time between Gulbarga and Beer and the Battalion of Sepoys, which marched from Belhary may be expected in the cantonment of Secundrabad about the 22nd of the month.

13. I have not the means of determining what measures Jeswant Rao Holkar is likely to adopt to oppose the rebels in Khandesh. I perceive by Mr. Mercer's dispatch No. 13 to your Lordship, that Holkar has announced his intention of coming to the southward for the purpose of quelling the insurrection of Wahid Ali Khan Bungaish, and Dadun Khan and their associates. But I have not learnt that he has commenced his march from Banpoorah; and his force is described to be inconsiderable. If Holkar should actually come to the southward he will probably find great difficulty in overcoming the rebels in the mountainous country along the north side of the Tapti. If the rebels should have preconcerted any system of co-operation with the Bheels who infest that mountainous tract their resistance may be very destructive to the troops of Holkar.

14. With respect to the future conduct of Holkar the following questions appear to deserve consideration. 1st. It is possible that Holkar, in the present reduced state of his finances and military power, should violate his peace with the British Government. 2nd. Is it probable that Mahipat Ram should induce Holkar to proceed to hostilities? It is evident that Holkar must conclude an amicable arrangement with the rebels in Khandesh, or destroy them before he can venture to commence hostilities with the Company. 3rd. Is it probable that Holkar will succeed in quelling the rebellion in Khandesh and Mhysore either by persuasion or force? 4th. Will Holkar attempt to attack the British Government alone, and unassisted by other powers? Is it probable that Sindhia or the Rajah of Berar should again combine with Holkar after their experience of his character and result of the last confederacy?

15. It may indeed be supposed that Holkar would expect to be joined by the southern Mahrattah Jagheerdars, and that he may succeed, through the intrigues of Mahipat Ram, to excite an

insurrection in the Nizam's territories against the British Government. I have mentioned these two circumstances, because they are often spoken of at this place. But it must be observed that the possessions of the Southern Jagheerdars lay at a great distance from the point at which hostilities would take place, that they are open to the attack of the British troops from Mysore and the ceded districts, and that the Poona Subsidiary Force would be ready to intercept the junction of the southern Jagheerdars with an invading enemy from the northward of the southern Jagheerdars, the family of the Patwardhans is only one that appears likely to renounce its connection with the Peshwa and to lend its . . . sanction to a confederacy which must be directed against the Peshwa as well as the British Government. I have ventured merely to touch upon this topic because it is often spoken of at this place. I do not pretend to determine how far such confederacy is probable and I do not possess the means of judging of the disposition or of the southern Jagheerdars.

16. The tendency of nearly all my dispatches will show your Lordship that I am not disposed to place any confidence in the friendship or constancy of the present Nizam. But I am not prepared to say whether His Highness's indisposition towards his alliance with the British Government proceeds so much from his own unbiased sentiments as from the impressions which he has received from Mahipat Ram and Ragotim Rao. His Highness scarcely ever thinks for himself on the most trifling subject, and his sentiments and feelings on all subjects, are generally directed by those who surrounded him. In the maintenance of his first impression, he is very capricious. If left to himself or assailed by flattery and induced by arguments, he can be soon prevailed upon to relinquish any notice. But if his sentiments be opposed or combated he becomes obstinate and every attempt to reason him out of a notion only serves to confirm it more strongly in his mind. His disinclination towards the British Government appears to me to have proceeded from the causes, one, an ambition which has been industriously excited by his companions and parasites to restore the house of Asophia to its former splendour, reputation and power. The other an alarm has been inculcated by our enemies, that the British Government intends gradually to subvert his authority and to seize his possessions. It is true that their motives are in themselves almost contradictory, but the fact is that the character of the present Nizam is an assemblage of contradictions. The alarm, with which he is impressed, has been increased by the consciousness of his unpopularity and by the circulation of a prophecy that he is to be the last reigning prince of the Asophia family.

17. But though the Nizam should never feel any friendship for us and however he may be inclined to release himself from the obligations of his alliance, there are certain parts of his character which will restrain him from proceeding to any desperate extremity and will always render him a most contemptible antagonist.

The parts of his character which disqualify him for any dangerous enterprize are his timidity, indolence, irresolution, parsimony and his total want of every popular quality. I do not believe that there is a single Amir of any respectability or influence who feels the slightest attachment to His Highness. The populace abuse him without reserve or decency.

17-A. The sentiments respecting the alliance amongst the greater part of the community at the court appear to me to be nearly these. The few men of rank and respectability who are capable of reflection appear to admit that the late Nizam had no other means of preserving his dominions than by a close connection with the British Government. To that connection they attribute the security of these dominions from the ambition of Tippoo Sultan and the rapacity of the Mahrattas. These persons also admit that the alliance with the British Government ensured the internal tranquillity and repose of these dominions at a period when every other part of India was convulsed with war. They appear to be sensible of the extent of our power and resources and of the inability of any confederacy amongst the remaining states of India to overcome us. They therefore deprecate all hostilities with a nation to whom every war has terminated in an accession of strength. But these reflections are confined to a very few persons. A greater number admit that there is no prospect during the reign of the present Nizam to subvert the influence which we have established in the Deccan. They are therefore resigned to the present condition of affairs although they look forward to a change of things. The turbulent and active are discontented because they are obliged to be quiet, and because, they delight in scenes of disturbances, treachery and plunder. The lower orders of Mussalmans detest and abuse us, because we are Christians and are powerful. The cultivators of the soil, the manufacturers, artizans and merchants groan under a load of exactions and oppressions and would willingly be transferred to the British Government. But under a despotic Government their voice is very feeble. Very few men of any respectability or influence would combine in an insurrection directed by Mahipat Ram or sanctioned by the Nizam. The authority of His Highness is propped by the support of the Subsidiary force and the alliance with the British Government. If these supports were removed only for a week the present Nizam would lose his throne, without bloodshed and almost without a struggle.

18. I have ventured to obtrude these observations on your Lordship's notice, in order that your Lordship may judge, how far an insurrection is at all probable in the present state of things, or how far any insurrections likely to be dangerous.

19. It will remain for the wisdom of your Lordship to determine whether the general aspect of affairs to the northward requires THE MAINTENANCE OF SO LARGE A FORCE IN . . . as is at present in advance. As far as the intrigues or designs of Mahipat Ram may be supposed to extend I am of opinion that

it is only necessary to add 2 Regiments of Cavalry and the horse artillery to the Detachment, which is at present in the immediate command of Lieutenant Colonel Doveton. That force added to the Nizam's reformed infantry, and a selected body of Horse under the Nabob Salabat Khan, appears to me to provide amply for the security of the northern frontier against the incursions of Mahipat Ram and the Pindaries, or other adherents whom he may seduce to join his standard.

This arrangement will admit of my withdrawing from Berar 1 Regiment of Cavalry, 2 Battalions of Sepoys, the Detachment of the 33rd Regiment and the Ordnance and Artillery, should propose that the 4th and the Eighth Regiments of Cavalry be kept in Berar, that the 2nd Regiment returned to the Poona Subsidiary Force and the 1st Regiment be drawn to Hyderabad. If it should not appear necessary to keep any extra Corps in these territories, the 1st Regiment of Cavalry will be the first for relief.

20. As the Rainy season is approaching I shall be anxious to be honoured with your Lordship's instructions as soon as possible with a view to prepare for the arrangement which I have suggested. I shall direct Lieutenant Colonel Montresor to return to the neighbourhood of Aurangabad. If your Lordship should approve of my suggestions, Lieutenant Colonel Montresor will be at hand to cross the Godavery before that river becomes unfavourable and if your Lordship should require the whole force to be kept in advance or that circumstances should appear to render that arrangement expedient Colonel Montresor will be at a convenient station to pass the rainy season.

21. As His Majesty's 33rd Regiment is much reduced in numbers and has been three years in the Deccan I intend to recommend to the Madras Government to relieve it by a stronger Regiment immediately after the Rains. I understand that such a measure has been in contemplation for some time past, and that the 59th Regiment is the Corps intended to relieve the 33rd.

22. By the plan which I have taken the liberty to offer to your Lordship's consideration the force that will be collected at this capital during the rains and immediately after them will consist of one Regiment of Cavalry, H. M. 33rd Regiment and 5 Battalions of Native Infantry.

23. If the Detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Doveton be augmented with 2nd Regiments of Cavarly and the Horse Artillery it will be proper that a Quarter Master of Brigade be appointed to the force under Lieutenant Colonel Doveton.

Letter No. 9.—Sydenham intimates that Meer Allum was reluctant to allow Bhonsla's troops enter Berar in pursuit of the Pindaries. The proposals of Meer Allum for the destruction of the Pindaries, the unsettled condition of affairs in Khandesh and the disposition of the British troops and Nizam's troops in Berar to meet the incursions of the Pindaries are matters dealt with in this letter.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 28th October 1808.

I have been furnished by Mr. Edmonstone with a copy of his letter to your address, dated the 18th of July and I have held frequent conversations with Meer Allum on the subject of permitting the troops of the Rajah of Berar to pursue the Pindaries through the territories of His Highness the Nizam.

2. Although Meer Allum admits the necessity of adopting every practicable measure of destroying the Pindaries, and although he promises that no exertion on the part of this Government shall be omitted to repel and chastize those common marauders, I perceive that he is extremely reluctant to consent to the proposition of granting a free passage to the Rajah of Berar's troops in the pursuit of the Pindaries, through the territories of the Nizam. His principal objections to this proposal appear to me to arise from an apprehension that the Rajah of Berar's troops will commit considerable depredations in the Nizam's territories, and that being once permitted to enter these territories in pursuit of the Pindaries, they will often avail themselves of that pretext to repeat their incursions. He therefore wishes that each Government should confine itself to the defence of its own possessions, and that the troops of the one should not be suffered to enter into the territories of the other. Although it is probable that Meer Allum may at length be induced to accede to an arrangement, which has received the sanction of the Governor-General yet I have occasion to know that he will not easily relinquish the opinion which I have stated.

3. At one time indeed he proposed that a body of the Nizam's troops should be united to the Bhonsla's Army, and that they should advance to attack the Pindaries in their haunts near the Tapti and Nerbudda. But there appeared to me many objections to this proposal; and indeed I soon discovered that it was suggested by the Meer only to get rid of the other plan.

4. I should suppose that the ministers of the Rajah of Berar would give the most satisfactory assurances that their troops should not commit any depredations on the Nizam's possessions, and that they should not enter the Nizam's territories excepting in pursuit of the Pindaries; and I imagine that the Ministers would not object to make good such losses as might be sustained by the inhabitants of these territories from the passage of the Bhonsla's troops, but

it will be difficult to distinguish between the depredations of the Pindaries and the acts committed by their pursuers; and the Officers of this Government will certainly ascribe all their losses to the latter in the hope of having them renumerated.

5. It will probably occur to you to communicate to the Ministers at Nagpur the apprehensions, expressed by Meer Allum and their replies will perhaps enable us to afford such assurances to Meer Allum as may remove the violent objection which he has hitherto stated to the proposition.

6. The late movements and supposed designs of the rebels in Khandesh and of Holkar's manager of the District of Umber, render it of much importance to the tranquillity of the western part of Berar that the British Detachment should continue in its present position near Jalna. The rebels have long threatened an attack upon Holkar's places near the frontier, and ultimately on the district of Umber, which is situated within the frontier. An agent, from Dadun Khan, Asud Ali Khan Bungaish, who was deputed to Rajah Govind Buksh, put a direct question to Lieutenant Colonel Doveton, "whether those Chieftains would be permitted to attack the province of Umber". As Lieutenant Colonel Doveton acquainted the Agent in reply to his question, that a passage for that purpose could not be admitted if it is probable that they will abstain from the attack of Umber, as long as the British Detachment may be in that neighbourhood; but it is difficult to foresee what they might be induced to do, if the Detachment were drawn from Jalna and stationed on the Eastern frontier.

7. On the other hand Holkar's Naib at Umber has collected from 2 to 3,000 men for the defence of that district. He has entered into term of agreement with Kesari Singh a principal leader of Bandittee, and he is prepared to resist any attack that may be made upon Umber by the rebels from Khandesh. Rajah Govind Buksh and the Ministers here, have received intelligence, to which they attach a great degree of credit that the Naib of Umber had concerted a plan with the different Naicks (of?) the Bheels to desolate the western part of Berar; but the presence of the British Detachment at Jalna has hitherto restrained the Bheels, and I trust that some arrangement will soon be made to prevent their becoming dangerous.

8. As long as affairs remain in their present unsettled state, it may be attended with great inconvenience to the interests of this Government to alter the position of the British Detachment, which position is admirably calculated to keep both the rebels in Khandesh and the Naib of Umber in check, to restrain the depredations of the Bheels, and to watch the movement of anybody of troops, that may come from the northward by way of Burhanpur.

9. But as long as the British Detachment retains its position near Jalna, it cannot be employed with any prospect of success against the Pindaries, who might confine their incursion to the

North-Eastern frontier of Berar. The distance from Jalna to Ellichpur cannot be less than 160 miles. The incursions of the Pindaries are so sudden and their movements are so rapid, that it would always be in their power to retire from the Nizam's territories and escape with their booty, before the British Troops could approach them. The detachment might always be prepared for movement, and would be equipped for long and rapid marches, but without the Pindaries await their approach(?), it would be impossible to overtake those freebooters.

10. Lieutenant Colonel Doveton has suggested that the Nàwab Salabat Khan should be posted somewhere near the . . . Tank with 1,500 horse, 2 Battalions of Infantry, and 4 guns, and that smaller parties of troops should be advanced towards Hiwarkhed and Sindurjana. The force, under so active and enterprizing a commander as Salabat Khan might keep the Pindaries in check until the British Detachment should move to the Eastward. There is a considerable body of the Nizam's troops at Malkapur, so that if the Pindaries should attempt to make their way from the Wardha towards Burhanpur, it is probable that either the Nizam's troops or the British Detachment might succeed in bringing the Pindaries to close action, and in giving them a severe defeat. If on the other hand they return to the Eastward and cross the Wardha it will be in the power of the Bhonsla's troops to overtake them.

11. On the whole I do not think it would be prudent, under the present aspect of affairs, to alter the position of the British Detachment, but as soon as the rainy season is over, Lt. Colonel Doveton may be instructed to hold the whole of his cavalry and a portion of his infantry in a state of readiness for immediate movement, and on his receiving intelligence of any menaced invasion of the Pindaries, he might advance by rapid marches to overtake them, or expel them from the Nizam territories. If the Pindaries should move to the westward, it is probable that Lieutenant Col. Doveton will have it in his power to overtake them; if they should cross the Wardha and move towards Nagpur, the troops of the Rajah of Berar will be able to bring them to close action

12. As soon as I have been favoured with your sentiments upon these subjects I will issue the necessary instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Doveton, and will communicate to Meer Allum such assurances as the Ministers of the Rajah of Berar may be willing to afford respecting the conduct of His Highness's troops in the Nizam's territories.

Letter No. 10.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins dated 25th August, 1808. Sydenham reports to the Governor-General the rebellion of one Govind Pant Tattiah, Naib of Amber in Khandesh, and a servant of Holkar. He discusses all the consequences of this rebellion and the attitude that the British should assume in this matter.

From—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hyderabad, the 25th August 1808.

The several papers which I have done myself the honour to communicate to the Secretary in the Political Department, together with the dispatches from Poona, will have made your Lordship acquainted with the condition and proceedings of the rebels in Khandesh. There are various accounts of their force but taking a medium of those which are likely to be the most authentic, I do not estimate their combined force to exceed 4,000 or 4,500 men, of which about 1,600 or 2,000 may be cavalry. They are likewise described to have 10 or 12 pieces, of cannon.

2. The Naib of Amber has succeeded in regaining possession of . . . from the Dadun Khan's people, who retired from that place, on finding they were not capable of defending it against the troops of the Naib of Amber. But it does not appear that Dadun Khan and his associates have altogether relinquished their designs on the possession of Holkar, situated near the............ It is generally expected that they will return to the attack of Seogaum with the whole of their force. If they succeed in re-taking that place they will probably extend their progress and the consequence will be that struggling warfare will be carrying on near the Nizam's frontier, and probably within its limits. This is species of warfare which will be very destructive to the Nizam's possessions, not only by the unavoidable depredations of both parties in His Highness's country but by affording employment to the numerous Banditti who infest that part of the country. The Naib of Amber has already taken into his service, a Naik of the name of Keysree Singh, who sought refuge in Amber from the pursuit of the Nizam's troops and there is little doubt that both he and the rebels will willingly encourage the leaders of Banditti from whom they may expect assistance.

3. For some time past the Naib of Amber Govind Pant Tattiah has behaved with great insolence and has shown no disposition to perform those offices of good neighbourhood which this Government has a right to expect from the servant of a Chieftain with whom it is at peace. He has permitted persons from his province to plunder some villages on the Nizam's country. He pays no attention to the repeated complaints and remonstrances of Rajah Govind Buksh and he has given protection and employment to Keysree Singh, a leader of the Banditti who had plundered all the Nizam's country bordering on the Godavery from Nanded to Masulipatam.

4. As the Naib of Amber does not appear to consider himself under the authority of Khandu Pant, Holkar's Vakeel at Poona, I have been by the particular and repeated . . . of Meer Allum, to address a letter to Jeswant Rao Holkar on the subject of the Naib's conduct and proceedings and I do myself the honour to submit to your Lordship a copy and translation of that letter.

5. When Colonel Montresor was marching through the Amber Province, he received a letter from the Naib, written on a very irritating improper force and conveying a . . . for which, there was not the slightest foundation. To this extraordinary letter Colonel replied with great moderation (No. 2 and 3). I have the honour to enclose translation of the letters which passed on the occasion.

6. It is scarcely possible to ascertain the real situation and views of the Rebels in Khandesh. At one period their open hostility to Holkar, compelled that Chieftain to the desperate measures of having Kashi Rao Holkar murdered. They laid waste all the country belonging to Holkar near the river Taptee. They are described to continue levying the contributions with great rigour and cruelty. It would appear from many papers of intelligence that their proceedings had excited considerable indignation and uneasiness in the mind of Holkar. The Naib of Amber and Bukht Ram the Killedar of Talnair have repeatedly solicited assistance from the northward. Ballaram Sait and Mahipat Ram are stated to have urged Holkar to send a body of troops to oppose the rebels, and it is said that Mir Khan offered to detach a part of his force for that purpose.

7. Later accounts indeed mention that the rebels have made their submission which has been favourably received by Jeswant Rao Holkar, and this circumstance is particularly stated in Holkar's letter to Khandu Pant, which was communicated to Colonel Close. But the intelligence from Bampoorah does not warrant conclusion that either the rebels were sincere in the submission, or that Holkar actually . . . them to be so. Neither does it appear that the rebels themselves altered their conduct, or avowed the reconciliation with Holkar.

8. The Rebels find much difficulty in supporting their troops, who are described to be in the greatest distress. They may therefore not feel themselves sufficiently strong to resist the authority of Holkar if that Chieftain either marched to the southward in person, or could send large force to quell the Rebellion. In the mean while it is probable that absolute necessity will oblige the rebels to continue to subsist their troops on the plunder of Holkar's provinces. If Holkar should march a force to the southward the conduct of the rebels will probably depend upon the opinion which

they may entertain of their own strength, and upon the degree of confidence which they conceive may be placed upon the assurances and promises of Holkar.

9. On the other hand it does not seem probable that Holkar will be able to detach a considerable force to the southward at all events not till after the rainy season is over. It may therefore suit the interests, and is sufficiently consistent with the usual policy of Holkar to affect a degree of confidence in the submission of the rebels, until he can adopt some decided measure against them.

10. As long as the rebels shall confine their operations to places beyond the Nizam's frontier, it appears to me that we have no cause for interference on their proceedings. But they cannot attack the province of Amber, without passing through the Nizam's territories, and I do not think it just to grant a free passage through the Nizam's territories to the rebels of a Government with which we are at peace and preserve a friendly intercourse. If the rebels should be permitted to pass through the Nizam's territories, for the avowed purpose of attacking the province of Amber, it is probable that the ingenuity of Holkar would discover in that proceeding a justification of his own conduct towards Mahipat Ram which conduct at present is unjustifiable. Holkar might reason in this manner "You require that Mahipat Ram a rebel to you should be delivered up by me, and at the same time you allow rebels to my Government to pass through the territories of that ally, for the purpose of seizing my possessions". A free passage to those rebels might, indeed, be considered a fair retaliation for the conduct of Holkar, in receiving, protecting, encouraging and employing a rebel, who had been expelled by force from the territories of his sovereign. But the propriety of such a measure will depend upon the light which your Lordship in Council may be disposed to view the conduct of Holkar towards Mahipat Ram and his nephew.

11. It may be presumed that after the conclusion of the rains Jeswant Rao Holkar will adopt some means of putting down the rebellion which has been suffered to continue so long unopposed and almost unobserved. If by the assurances and promises of Holkar, Dadun Khan, Wahed Ali Khan Bangaish, and Mahipat Rao Holkar should be induced to return to the duties of allegiance, all inconvenience and danger will be at an end. But if it be necessary to employ force to crush the rebellion, it is prudent that we should be prepared for operations of a much more serious and critical nature than a mere contest for superiority between Holkar and the rebels.

12. Holkar may either march to the Deccan in person, or detach a considerable part of his Army to re-establish his authority in Khandesh. The anxiety which Holkar has always manifested to retain his influence amongst the Rajput states in Hindustan and

to prevent that influence from falling into the hands of Dowlat Rao, renders it improbable that Holkar should come to the Deccan in person. The late success of Sindhia's troops over the Jaipur Army is an additional . . . . to keep Holkar at Banpoorah or even to take him to the northward, for the purpose of counteracting the effects of the late victory obtained by Sindhia's troops. Indeed many of the late Akhbars state that Holkar had resolved on the marching to the assistance of the Rajah of Jaipore. If the treasury of Sindhia were better furnished his Ministers united, his troops obedient, and if his personal character were consistent with bold proceedings Sindhia might give a severe blow to the powers and influence of the Holkar by pursuing the success obtained by Bapooji Sindhia. But neither the character nor the resources of Sindhia afford any expectation, that he will derive a permanent superiority from the late victory. However, it will probably require the presence of Holkar in Hindustan to prevent Sindhia from obtaining the ascendancy, and I therefore conclude, that Holkar will not come to the southward.

13. But it may be in his power to detach a portion of his Army to the province of Khandesh. Although the body of Regular troops may be small, yet it will probably be joined by a host of Pindharies and other freebooters, who wander along the Nerbuddah, and are always ready to join any expendition from which plundering be expected. It is possible that Mahipat Ram or Sreepat Ram, or Mohammed Raza Khan may be employed on this expedition, and that the troops which were lately expelled from the country may return to it. Whether these troops be opposed to the rebels, or whether they unite, it will be necessary to watch their movements with constant vigilance, and adopt every measure of precaution for the security of the province of Berar.

14. In the event of the actual approach of a body of the Holkar's troops towards the frontier of Berar, I beg to enquire which line of conduct your Lordship would wish me to pursue. I am anxious to learn whether the whole, or any part of such troops is to be permitted through the Nizam's territories to Amber. Whether the Naib of Amber is to be allowed to increase his force or to give protection and employment to the Naicks who reside in the Nizam's dominions, and who may from time to time seek refuge in the province of Amber. If Mahipat Ram or his nephew Sreepat Ram, should accompany Holkar's troops to the southward whether they are to be considered merely as officers in the service of Holkar, or whether they are to be regarded and treated as rebels to this state.

15. Hitherto I have directed Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to observe the most scrupulous neutrality towards both the rebels and the Naib of Amber. As Dadun Khan has deputed a Vakil to Rajah Govind Buksh, I have instructed Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to hold a language of perfect neutrality towards that person, and have requested Meer Allum to point out to Rajah Govind Buksh the

propriety of avoiding everything like the appearance of encouragement to the Rebels. As soon as the Agent of Dadun Khan has communicated his message to the Rajah, the Agent will be directed to leave the Nizam's territories, and return to his master but I trust, that it may be in the power either of Rajah Govind Buksh or of Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to procure from the Agent some more accurate information than we at present possess of the real disposition of the Rebels towards Holkar, and of their future views and intentions.

Letter No. 11.—The letter explains why and how Mahipat Ram had been given shelter and intimate the Governor-General that Mahipat Ram was proceeding to Calcutta to claim justice from the Governor-General.

From—JESWANT RAO HOLKAR.

To—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(Received 12th August 1808.)

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's two obliging letters; one on the subject of my receiving for the present the net collections of the district of Koonch from the date on which it was transferable to my daughter (who is most dear to me, and possesses a claim upon our mutual regard) and informing me that I was at liberty hereafter either to form the district or to commit the charge of it to your Lordship's Agent in Bundelkhand, as may be most consonant to my wishes, and that the Agent will be . . . to act accordingly, under the instructions with which your Lordship has furnished him for that purpose. The other describing the . . . and singular situation of Rajah Mahipat Ram, who has been proclaimed as a rebel.

Previously to my receipt of the letters from the Residents at Poona, Nágpur and other places . . . . . such officers are stationed, Rajah Mahipat Ram had actually arrived on the bank of the Nerbudda, and had sent me the message offering to come to me . . . . . . certain conditions and as I was not fully acquainted with the circumstances of the case, I deputed a confidential person to conduct him to my Camp and entertained him. After his arrival letters poured in, in rapid succession from all quarters, expressing but one desire that he should be seized and delivered up.

In this quarter many illustrious Rajas and Nobles of distinguished rank, happy and contented under the protecting power of this favoured servant of God, and occupied in the peaceful administration of their hereditary possessions, unconscious of fear, sleep in the cradle of undisturbed security. If any of them should chance to commit a fault, since as the proverb expresses it, "Man is compounded of forgetfulness and error" I not only pardon his offence, but in a season of exigency, I furnish him with military aid in the settlement of his affairs. When my name has obtained so much celebrity throughout the countries of Hindustan, and the English Chiefs aware of this, manifest their friendship and regard, and gratify me by their correspondence; to what a degree would it exact my reputation if I were to seize and deliver up the Rajah.

With a view, however, to cement the ties of cordiality and harmony and friendship which have long subsisted between the two states without interruption, I . . . . . . upon an expedient in the present case, and having ascertained the real views and sentiments of the Rajah I have with great judgment . . . . address, resolved to give the Rajah his dismission and to dispatch him to Calcutta.

Since the Almighty has caused your Lordship to be . . . . nobled by his Britannic Majesty (may it be propitious to all friends) I hope that on the Raja's arrival your Lordship will summon him to your tribunal, and keeping in . . . . the reciprocal friendship and mutual honour of the two states, be pleased to dispense justice and settle the affair in such a manner as shall admit of his actions and past transactions being overlooked and of the recognition of his sincerity and loyalty.

With respect to the subject of Koonch, on which your Lordship has written to me in detail with the pen of kindness, I have fully understood all that your Lordship has stated. I have no objection to the proposed arrangement.

I shall settle all affairs relative to the district with your Lordship's Agent in Bundelkhand, and communicate the result of my proceedings to your Lordship.

I trust that your Lordship will always be pleased to gratify the wish of my heart, by the transmission of friendly letters.

What more shall I write with the pen of amity.

Dated 22nd Jammaudeeool Awil 1224 Hizree, 17th July 1808.

A true translation.

J. MONCKTON,
Persian Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 12.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins. Sydenham reports to the Governor-General how his (G.-G.'s) letter to the Nizam was presented and its contents impressed upon him. He suggests that Mahipat Ram's family should be removed from Hyderabad to some place within British territories, Moontazimud Doula the Killedar of Doulatabat to be dismissed and Subhan Khan should be removed from Berar. These two were friends of Mahipat Ram. This is a piece of fine diplomatic correspondence, containing choicest phrases and words and most expressive and elegant expressions.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hyderabad, the 5th September 1808.

Various circumstances, connected with the state of affairs at this court, prevented me from carrying into immediate effect the instructions, which were conveyed to me in Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's letter of the 30th of May last, at the period. When I had the honour to receive that dispatch, I was engaged in the frivolous, but perplexing, task of persuading the Nizam to visit me; and I considered it to be of so much importance to remove the absurd apprehensions, which His Highness entertained of the object of that visit, that I determined to postpone the delivery of your Lordship's letter, until the entertainment which had been prepared for His Highness should have taken place.

2. It appeared to me that your Lordship's remonstrances were intended to produce two effects. One, to remove every unjust suspicion from His Highness's mind, the other, to demonstrate the real danger of His Highness permitting his conduct to be swayed by those suspicions. Of these two effects, it occurred to me that the former ought to be first produced in order that His Highness's mind might be prepared for the reception of the salutary counsel, which is contained in your Lordship's letter. As long as His Highness's mind continued to be agitated by the absurd alarms, described in my last dispatch, so long would His Highness have placed an improper construction on the motives of your Lordship's remonstrances. In that state of mind, your Lordship's remonstrances, though conveyed in the most conciliating language and blended with the most encouraging assurances, would only have confirmed his suspicions and increased his alarm. It was to be expected, that the manner in which the proposed entertainment would be conducted and concluded, might convince His Highness with more certainty, than the most serious arguments, of the utter falsehood

and absurdity of the reports, which had been communicated to him. As long as those apprehensions continued to be entertained by His Highness, it would have been impossible to produce that degree of confidence, which should enable him to comprehend the real motives of your Lordship's remonstrances.

3. I have already observed in my dispatch No. 11, that the Nizam appeared to be much gratified by the entertainment, that several Omrahs, who attended his person were no less pleased at the attention which was paid to them; and even the apprehension of the Begums, for the safety of the Nizam, were entirely removed. For some short time it was not my wish to disturb this state of general satisfaction, and harmony, by discussions, which were calculated to rouse fears of the Nizam, and were likely to be offensive to his friends and favourites. In the mean while, His Highness continued to amuse himself at the gardens of Lingumpally and after his return to the city, he observed so little moderation on his pleasures, that he was seized with a violent fever, which confined him to the Mahal, and suspended the transaction of all public business at the Durbar.

4. During this interval, the persons of Rajah Sukroodur and of his Deputy Eknath Pandit had been seized and sent to Hyderabad. The troops belonging to Sukroodur manifested no disposition to resist the orders of the Minister. Measures were immediately taken to settle the heavy arrears of pay which were due from them. The Amildars, who were appointed by the Minister, established their authority over the districts, which were held by Sukroodur, and the perfect tranquillity which prevailed throughout those districts admitted of my withdrawing the Battalion of Native Infantry, that had been stationed at Bheer.

5. The removal from all influence and authority of Rajah Sukroodur, and the tranfer to persons, on whom the Minister could place confidence of the extensive country which was held by the Rajah, had accomplished a principal object of your Lordship's instructions, and rendered it of less urgent necessity to propose the other measures, which are detailed in the Secretary's dispatch.

6. During His Highness's illness and confinement, both the Minister and myself received repeated intelligence, that constant correspondence was maintained between Moontizimood Dowlah and Raja Mahipat Ram, and the Minister ascertained that Moontizimood Dowlah was in the habit of sending Arzees, once or twice a week, to the Nizam through the Begums. For some time I was led to expect that the Minister would have succeeded in intercepting some of Moontizimood Dowlah's packets to the Mahal, but after many fruitless attempts we were obliged to be satisfied with having ascertained that a frequent intercourse by letter subsisted between the Begums and Moontizimood Dowlah and between

Moontizimood Dowlah and Mahipat Ram. Various circumstances, which were communicated to me by persons of respectable authority, induced me to believe, that the Tyniatoo Nissa Begun herself was actively engaged in a clandestine correspondence with Mahipat Ram and Jeswant Rao Holkar; but the minister from all his intelligence concluded that the Begum's name was employed only as a cover to the proceedings of the Nizam.

7. I confess that I have very little doubt in my own mind that the Nizam did expect Mahipat Ram to return to Berar, assisted by Jeswant Rao Holkar and a considerable Army, with a large train of artillery, but His Highness seemed gradually to become convinced that neither Mahipat Ram nor Holkar had sufficient resources to raise an Army, and that Holkar was by no means seriously disposed to enter into a contest with the British Government. It was said that the conditions, prescribed by Holkar, as the price of his commencing hostilities with the Company were extravagant beyond all measure, and they appeared more calculated to amuse the Nizam than furnish any indication of a serious design to violate the subsisting peace. It is reported that Mahipat Ram himself discouraged the Nizam from undertaking any measures, that might subject him to the suspicions of the British Government, but rather advised His Highness to wait patiently, till the arrival of the French and Persians in Hindostan, when all the states in India might unite with certain success in the expulsion of the British nation.

8. I discovered that the Nabob Soobhan Khan wrote several letters, under a feigned name to Mahipat Ram, and at the same time frequently corresponded with Moontizim Dowlah. Indeed the conduct and proceedings of Soobhan Khan have for some time past been of so extraordinary a nature, that I consider it to be necessary to communicate the fullest information of them to your Lordship, particularly as I have been induced by the advice of the Minister and from the result of my own reflection, to advise the Nizam to resume the Jaghires which are held by Soobhan Khan.

9. The whole of the Nizam's possessions north of the river Godavery is infested by large bands of Freebooters, known by the appellation of Naicks and Bheels, who prevent the cultivators from reaping their harvest, compel travellers and merchants to travel with large escort for their safety, and by their depredations and cruelties have completely deprived the province of Berar of all internal tranquillity. At all times the ranges of hills, which interesect Berar, were chiefly inhabited by Freebooters, who subsisted either by plunder, or by contributions from inhabitants or travellers, who purchased an exemption from robbery by certain stipulated payments of money. The inhabitants secured their crop from depredation by giving up a certain portion of their harvests to the robbers and travellers and merchants paid a certain tax to secure their persons and property, from danger. In the

course of time, these duties or Roosoom, as they are called, became established and defined and they entitled the inhabitants to protection from all depredations whatsoever. The Government sensible of the difficulty of extirpating a band of robbers, whose haunts were situated in the recesses of mountains, inaccessible to the operations of regular troops, considered it a wise policy to encourage a mode of settlement which furnished a general security to the inhabitants, travellers and merchants against all thefts, robberies, and depredations. The Government not only acknowledged such engagement but provided for the regular payment of the Roosoom gave lands to the Naiks, and sometimes employed them in the service of the state.

10. But owing to the late war, and subsequent famine, many villages were deserted, and the Naicks and Bheels lost the contributions which they had formerly procured from them. The freebooters took advantage of the disturbed state of the country to extend their ravages, many needy adventurers from all parts of Berar, and some of the disbanded troops of Sindhia, Holkar and the Bhonsla, joined them. These parties become more large and formidable; and as the difficulty of subsistence increased with their numbers, their predatory excursions become more frequent, more distant and more destructive. Different bands sometimes quarrelled about their plunder, and many sanguinary engagements have taken place between them. But their injuries against one another have never been so destructive as their common injuries against the peaceable inhabitants of the country. Large tracts of country near the hills have been left uncultivated. Most of the villages in their neighbourhood have been deserted. The inhabitants have flocked to the walled towers, and near them even, the crops are not secure from the wanton and merciless depredations of the Bheels. Large bodies of these freebooters headed by their daring leaders, range unrestrained throughout the country, and keep whole districts in a state of terror.

11. Rajah Mahipat Ram from indolence, from despair of subduing such enemies, or with a view to employ their services on some future occasion, not only took no active measures to restrain them, but is even accused of having afforded them secret encouragement, and of having shared their plunder. Rajah Govind Buksh has often attempted to restrain their depredations, but the Bheels have in general succeeded in avoiding such parties of Troops as have been employed against them. The service is of so laborious and dangerous a nature that none of the Nizam's officers enter upon it with any great degree of zeal. The Cavalry is incapable of acting in the strong and rugged country to which the Bheels resort when they are pursued and even the Infantry cannot resort to their interior haunts.

12. But the chief obstacle, to the success of Rajah Govind Buksh's measures, has been the encouragement which the several Naiks have received from Officers in the Nizam's service, particularly from the Nabob Soobhan Khan. It is a notorious fact that

Soobhan Khan concerts the expeditions of plunder with the Naiks, employs some of his own troops in those expeditions, supplies the Naiks with ammunition and provisions, receives the plunder in his own forts and retains a certain share of it for his own benefit. Many of the Naiks with their families and property reside in the districts belonging to Soobhan Khan under the immediate protection of his amildars. When an excursion has taken place the plunder is conveyed to places belonging to Soobhan Khan. Some part is retained by the Naiks and a certain portion is given to the Amils of Soobhan Khan. I have procured a statement from a Portuguese Officer, in the service of Soobhan Khan, by which it appears that his share of the plunder since the termination of the late Mahrattah war exceeds the sum of sixteen lacks of rupees.

13. Soobhan Khan has never concealed his enmity to the present ministers or his abhorrence of the English nation, not satisfied with loading us with rancarous abuse, he applies the most contumacious and degrading epithets to the Nabob Salabat Khan for his obedience to the present minister, and his attachment to many British Officers. Since the period that Lieut. Colonel Doveton has been in Berar, Soobhan Khan has on no one occasion, showed the slightest disposition to attend to the Colonel's suggestions or to obey any of the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh. His time and attention are entirely occupied by his connection with the Naiks. and in the accumulation of wealth, derived from the plunder of the country.

14. Soobhan Khan is described to be a brave enterprizing soldier of a fierce and turbulent disposition; proud, naughty and ambitious. From his character of irregular ambition, his connection with many of the principal banditti in Berar, his enmity to the present ministers and his aversion for the British Government, I consider him be one of those military leaders who might in times of difficulty and confusion, become extremely dangerous to our alliance with the Government, and to the stability of our interest in the Deccan.

15. I have considered it necessary My Lord, to be very full upon the character and conduct of this person, in order that your Lordship may be acquainted with the grounds, upon which I was induced to comply with the Minister's earnest solicitation, that I should unite with him with suggesting the removal of Soobhan Khan from the Jagheers, which he holds in the province of Berar.

16. The Minister has often expressed his anxiety to liberate Berar from the present oppressions of the Bheels and Naiks, who have desolated the country and reduced its revenue so low, that great difficulty is found to pass the troops, that are stationed there for its defence. The Minister declared his inability to accomplish any settlement with those freebooters, so long as Soobhan Khan should retain his Jagheers, in Berar; that the conduct of that Officer had invariably been insolent presumptuous and contumacious; that he was worse than useless, and that he would himself

propose Soobhan Khan's dismission from the service if such a proposition unsupported by my influence were likely to be acceded to by His Highness the Nizam.

17. It was therefore determined that I should take no notice of Rajah Sukroodur but that the Minister should propose the removal of Soobhan Khan from his Jagheers in Berar, and that I should support that proposition in the presence of the Nizam. The Minister in his usual spirit of moderation, declared his readiness to retain Soobhan Khan in the service of the state, with a party of 500 Silledar horse, to be paid from the treasury, and to continue to Soobhan Khan his personal Jagheer of fifty thousand Rupees.

18. As soon as the Nizam was sufficiently recovered to hold a public Durbar, I was invited to be present at His Highness's reception of the Poona Vakil, Kistnajee Mankeshwar and I had the satisfaction to observe that His Highness's demeanour and language towards the Vakeel were perfactly courteous and conciliatory. Both the Vakeel and his Deputy received the usual presents of Jewels, and they were conducted to Durbar, and from the Durbar to their dwelling, with the customary attentions and ceremonies.

19. On a subsequent day I proceeded to the palace for the purpose of presenting to His Highness Lieutenant Colonel Montresor and his general staff, on their return from the expedition against Mahipat Ram. The Colonel and the officers who accompanied him were treated with great politeness by the Nizam, and received presents of jewels suitable to their respective ranks.

20. At length I wrote a note to the Minister to acquaint him that I had received a Khureetah from the Governor General to His Highness the Nizam, and to request that a day might be appointed for the delivery of the letter. When my note was conveyed to the Nizam, His Highness expressed great anxiety to learn the contents of the letter, and desired me to send a copy of it for his perusal. On many occasions, I have declined furnishing the Minister, or the Nizam, with copies of the Governor General's letter, in order that the contents of them might not become public amongst a description of persons, who are ready to prepare the Nizam for resistance against every proposal from the British Government, but on the present occasion I thought it might be productive of considerable benefit to give the Nizam an opportunity to examine, and comprehend, the nature, tendency and object of your Lordship's remonstrances and advice. It was my wish that the impression upon His Highness's mind should be rather the deliberate result of his own reflection upon the contents of your Lordship's letter, than the sudden effect of such arguments and remonstrances, as I might have to employ in his presence. I therefore wrote a note to the Minister, enclosing an authenticated copy of your Lordship's letter, and stating, that as the letter contained matter of high importance which would require the serious attention and deliberation of the Nizam, I had sent it with a view that His Highness

might, at his leisure, weigh and reflect upon its contents, before I waited upon him, to propose the measures which I had been instructed to submit to His Highness's considerations.

21. In the course of three or four days I was invited to an audience, and accordingly proceeded to the Durbar. After the usual enquiries and compliments had passed, I delivered your Lordship's Khureetah to His Highness, who opened it, and desired that the letter might be read to him by principal Moonshee. His Highness appeared to direct all his attention to the contents of the letter, and after the reading of it was finished, he spoke to me nearly to the following effect. That he was perfectly sensible of your Lordship's motives in communicating to him your sentiments with freedom and candour on the late occurrences and the present state of affairs at this court. That he considered the British Government to be the guardian of the Asophia state, and in that capacity he looked up to your Lordship for advice upon all subjects, in which the interests of the two states were concerned; that when a reference to your Lordship were inconvenient or unnecessary, he looked to me for counsel and assistance. That he had always shown a ready disposition to be guided by such counsel as I had from time to time given to him. That he was determined to adhere faithfully to all his engagements with the Company, and that he trusted your Lordship would give credit to his assertion and would relinquish the suspicions which you appeared to entertain of the sincerity of his sentiments.

22. I replied that I was happy to learn from His Highness himself that he was sensible of the motives, which had induced your Lordship to write the present letter; that I could assure His Highness of your Lordship's reluctance even to employ the language of remonstrance or complaint, or to entertain suspicions of His Highness's sincerity. But whatever your Lordship's personal feelings might be, it was necessary to sacrifice them to the important duty of watching over the rights and interests of the British Government, and of securing the benefits of the alliance from the machinations and hostility of those, who were inimical to the mutual interests of the two states. That I had repeatedly informed His Highness of the danger of trusting to mere assertions and protestations of sincerity and friendship; that one Government must judge of the feelings and disposition of another Government by its acts and its general conduct and not by its language alone. That although His Highness had, after much tedious altercation, gradually consented to various measures which I had been the instrument of proposing to his consideration yet I had never discovered any great willingness, on the part of His Highness, to adopt the advice of his ally; and that I did not recollect one instance of His Highness having spontaneously taken any means to justify the sincerity of his professions of regard towards the British Government. Indeed I was well convinced that many of the unpleasant measures, which I had been compelled to propose to His Highness might have been avoided, if His Highness had either followed the advice of his minister or had of himself consulted his

own interest or dignity, and the obligations of his alliance with the British Government. That certainly the whole course of events for the last six months was sufficient to produce the most unfavourable impressions on the mind of the person least liable to suspicion or distrust. That I should have betrayed the most sacred part of my duty if I had hesitated in communicating my apprehensions to the Governor General, or had concealed from the knowledge of your Lordship, any of the circumstances upon which those apprehensions were founded. I then reviewed the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and his associates from the period at which I arrived at Hyderabad till their late rebellion, and I commented in severe terms on the character and conduct of a desperate faction whose design was evidently to dissolve that alliance, which was essential to the existence of His Highness's Government.

23. The Nizam did not attempt to offer any excuse for the conduct of Mahipat Ram which His Highness persisted in attributing to madness, but His Highness observed that he could not be responsible for the proceedings of a man, who was either so mad, or so foolish, as wantonly to bring destruction upon his own head. I replied that no one could deny the folly of Mahipat Ram's conduct, but I was by no means so certain of his madness. That I attributed his conduct partly to his mischievous spirit and restless ambition, and partly to the knowledge or supposition, that his conduct was encouraged, and would be supported by persons in higher authority. His Highness's attention was much excited by this remark; but after musing for some time, he only observed, that it was the character of madness to fancy the most improbable things.

24. I then reverted to the subject of your Lordship's letter and requested His Highness's attention, both to the matter which it contained, and to the spirit in which it was written. It was the constant object of the Governor General's solicitude to prevent the relations of harmony and friendship between the two states from being disturbed. It was equally the wish, the duty, and the interest, of the British Government to provide for the security of His Highness's throne; the dignity of his family; the prosperity of his country; and the independence of his power. But whatever our inclination might be our anxiety and our exertions would be vain and useless, if His Highness should refuse all confidence to his ally, and took to other quarters for assistance and support. No friendship could be permanent, of which mutual confidence was not the basis; and how could His Highness feel that degree of confidence, which was so essential to the continuation of the subsisting alliance, if he persisted in looking for counsel to those alone who were inimical to the British Government, and if he suffered his mind to be agitated by the most unjust and unfounded suspicions of our character and designs. As long as His Highness did not feel implicit confidence in the justice, probity and faith of his ally, so long would the principle and essence of the alliance continue vitiated and corrupted, and the alliance itself be subject to all the accidents, which attended friendships that were not

cemented by affection. The present alliance was founded on a union of interest though it was true that the interests of each state were of a very different degree. The particular interests of the British Government as connected with His Highness's Government were merely those of every civilized state, that cultivated the arts of peace, and was naturally anxious to live on terms of friendship and harmony with its neighbour; and the general interests of the British nation were connected with the repose and tranquillity of the whole of India. But the interests of His Highness's Government in its alliance with the British nation, comprehended its very existence as an independent power. Every consideration, therefore of policy as well as of honour and good faith required that His Highness should manifest a religious observance of his engagements and should act towards us with the most cordial spirit of attachment.

25. The Nizam appeared to pay great attention to this discourse, and the Minister went over the same ground, and illustrated the principles, which regulated the conduct of the British Government by the history of our transactions in India. The Minister was very profuse in his assurances that the Nizam understood and felt all the advantages of his present connection with the British Government, and said that I was not to judge of His Highness's sentiments by the opinions and conduct of a few desperate men, who were inimical to the alliance and might wish to prejudice the Nizam against it.

26. I observed that late occurrences had made so unfavourable an impression on the mind of the Governor General that his Lordship had deemed it necessary to recall the attention of the Nizam to the obligation of his alliance and to point out the line of conduct which was requisite for the Nizam to pursue, if His Highness wished to preserve those advantages which he had derived from our friendship and support. That the whole letter was written in the most conciliatory tone, and contained just that kind of language which one friend would address to another on a subject concerning their most important interests. That it was his Lordship's wish to remove from the mind of the Nizam, every impression of alarm and apprehension, and to restore to it that confidence, which was to essential to the harmony and union of the two states. That I fervently hoped His Highness would regulate his conduct by the salutary counsel, which the letter contained, and that he would not compel the British Government to adopt any measure of a different complexion from those, which I should have to offer to his consideration.

27. I then stated that Mahipat Ram continued to employ the Nizam's name as an authority for all his late violent proceedings that he kept up a constant correspondence with his friends in these territories; that the names of persons of very high rank and con-

sideration, for whom I had always entertained a profound respect had been mentioned as facilitating the transmission of letters from Holkar's Camp to the Nizam's palace, and from the palace to Holkar's Camp. I particularly observed that Moontizimoo Dowla whose partiality towards Mahipat Ram was sufficiently notorious had continued to maintain a regular intercourse with that rebel and with certain persons in the city. The Nizam, apparently with some surprize, asked me whether I credited all the intelligence I received. I said that I had taken particular pains to ascertain the truth of the information which had been communicated to me, that it had been procured from several distinct sources; and that I had no cause to imagine that I was much deceived. I then read some papers of intelligence, which I had procured from the city, from Aurangabad, from Burhanpur and from Holkar's Camp, respecting the language held by Mahipat Ram; and his intercourse with Hyderabad and Moontizimoo Dowlah. His Highness turned towards the Minister and enquired whether he had received any intelligence of that description. The Minister replied that all the Akhbars he had received corroborated what I had mentioned and that copies of those Akbars had been regularly submitted to His Highness.

28. I then said that the Governor General had, in his letter, alluded to certain arrangements and measures, the adoption of which was calculated to secure the tranquillity of these territories from the machinations of our common enemies, and to convince the Governor General of His Highness's disposition to discourage those who were inimical to the combined interests of the two states. That the measures, to which the Governor General particularly alluded, were the removal of Mahipat Ram's family from Hydrabad to some convenient place under the dominion of the British Government, and the dismissal of Moontezimoo Dowlah from the Killehdaree of Dowlatabad. That the first measure would deprive Mahipat Ram of all hope of return to Hydrabad, and might operate as some check on his future proceedings. That with reference to the tranquillity of Berar, it was highly expedient that so important a post as the fort of Dowlatabad should not remain in the custody of an officer who was notoriously associated with a rebel to the state. I observed that the family of Mahipat Ram might perhaps wish to retire to Benares, where it might remain in perfect security and would be subjected to no unnecessary restraint or personal danger.

29. The Nizam showed no symptoms of dissatisfaction at these proposals, but merely desired the Minister to see that they were carried into effect. The Minister then addressed the Nizam upon the subject of Soobhan Khan's conduct developed the whole of his connection with the Naiks and Bheels, produced statements of the plunder which had been collected by that officer, and loudly complained of his insolence and disobedience. After the Minister had concluded, I observed that I was happy he had made the Nizam so fully acquainted with the proceedings of Soobhan Khan,

whose conduct had long excited my attention and surprize. That Soobhan Khan had never shown the slightest disposition to act in obedience to the orders of Lieut. Colonel Doveton, that latterly he had engaged in a clandestine correspondence of a suspicious nature with Mahipat Ram and Moontezimoo Dowlah; that the sentiments he always expressed of the British Government, and of its alliance with this state, convinced me that he is one of that desperate faction, who were impatient to unite in open hostility against us. The Minister resumed the subject, and stated, that it would be impossible to come to any satisfactory arrangement with the freebooters, who desolated Berar as long as Soobhan Khan retained his Jagheer in that province. That the connection of Soobhan Khan with those freebooters, the turbulence of his character, his open contempt of all the minister's orders, added to the dangerous tendency of his views, rendered it of extreme importance to recall him to the capital, to resume his Jagheers, and to deprive him of all influence in Berar. The Nizam appeared to be sensible of the propriety of the Minister's advice, and asked me whether I thought this arrangement would tend to remove the unfavourable impression, which the Governor General had received from the late occurrences in these territories. I replied that I was perfectly confident of the expediency and importance of adopting the Minister's advice and that I could venture to assure His Highness of your Lordship's being much gratified at the anxiety which he expressed to remove those impressions which your Lordship had reluctantly admitted, after an attentive review of the state of affairs at this Court. The Minister proposed that Soobhan Khan should be retained in the service with a party of 500 horse, to be paid from the Treasury; that he should continue to enjoy his personal estate and that he should be recalled to the capital. The Nizam expressed his approbation of these measures, and authorized the necessary orders to be prepared for his signature.

30. His Highness then directed the Minister and Ihtisamool Moolk to prepare an appropriate answer to the letter from the Governor General, and desired that when the draft was prepared it might be brought to him, for examination and correction. His Highness afterwards addressed himself to me, and repeated his usual professions of regard and attachment towards the British Government; assured me that he was much gratified by the warm interest which your Lordship expressed for the prosperity of the Assofiah state, and that he would on every occasion implicitly follow your Lordship's advice. His Highness also said many flattering things to me and thanked me for the repeated proofs he had experienced of my attachment to his person and family. But he requested that I would not suffer any suspicion of his sincerity to remain in the mind of your Lordship, but that I would exert myself to restore the most entire confidence to both parties. I made a suitable answer to what His Highness had said, and I assured him that your Lordship's confidence would be restored the moment His Highness's conduct should justify the sincerity of his professions.

Letter No. 13.—Sydenham reports the death of Meer Allum on the 8th December 1808 and his last interview with him.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDRABAD.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hyderabad, the 10th December 1808.

I am much concerned to announce to your Lordship the melancholy intelligence of the death of Meer Allum. Since the commencement of the cold season, he complained of oppression at his chest and of rheumatic pains in his head. But there were no symptoms which foreboded any danger until the 4th or 5th of December, when his debility became more apparent and it seemed doubtful whether he could live much longer. I saw him on the evening of the 5th when he was scarcely able to sit up on his bed to receive me. He was in the clear and entire possession of his faculties, and spoke to me with great calmness of his approaching fate. Without despairing of recovery, he had prepared his mind to meet death with composure and resignation. He thanked me for the many proofs he had received of my friendship, and said that he carried with him to the grave the warmest feelings of gratitude and attachment towards the British Government. He alluded, very distantly and delicately to the situation in which his family and especially Moonirul Moolk, would be left by his death and he recommended them all to my protection and guardianship of the Nizam or this Government he said very little. His voice became so feeble that I could not understand him distinctly; but he appeared to mean that the Nizam was surrounded by men who would bring destruction on this state, if we did not watch them narrowly and remove the Nizam from their influence. After a short pause, he said "God in Heaven only knows what will become of him" meaning I thought the Nizam.

2. During the 6th and the 7th he remained nearly in the same state, but on the 8th his weakness was extreme, and it was evident that he had not long to live. Towards the evening of that day he became drowsy and reluctant to move. His memory began to fail and his apprehension and utterance to get indistinct. About 10 o'clock at night he was almost insensible and motionless and in that state he lingered on till the midnight, when he expired without a struggle or a groan. There was no symptom of any particular disease so distinctly marked, as to enable his medical attendants to attribute his death to any other cause, than the gradual exhaustion of his debilitated frame, and the slow and almost insensible dissolution of his vital powers.

3. On the morning of the 9th his remains were carried to a small tomb at the common burial place of the Musalmans of the Shiah Sect. The Mir as soon as he was appointed Minister had caused a tomb to be built in a small spot of ground within the city which he had purchased for that particular purpose. Before his death he gave directions that he might be buried in that tomb; but the Nizam thought proper to prevent the Meer's will from being carried into effect and ordered that his remains should be placed either in the Tomb of Austoojah or in the common burying ground. The Mir's relations preferred the latter. The funeral was perfectly simple. All those Omrahs who were in any way connected with, or attached to the Meer attended his body to the grave and many thousands of the poor of the city crowded the streets through which the body was carried. There was a general emotion of concern and distress through the city. I believe that there are very few persons who do not look upon the Mir's death as a great public calamity.

4. I directed that the minute guns to the number of fifty-five, should be fired in the British Cantonment, and both there and at the Residency the flag was hoisted half-mast high as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Minister.

5. The Nizam very foolishly ordered a body of troops to assemble at the place, and this order joined to his preventing the Mir's body from being deposited in the Tomb which was prepared for it, excited considerable disgust and some clamours amongst the populace. However there was no tumult or disorder and there is not the slightest appearance that the present tranquillity will be in any way disturbed.

Letter No. 14.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Sydenham's address to Lord Minto, dated the 20th January 1809, in which Sydenham discusses the three plans about appointment of a successor to Meer Allum—the late Prime Minister to the Nizam. The three persons in view are Prince Nasir Jung, Shamsul Umra and Munirul Mulk. Having stated the advantages and disadvantages of each plan he awaits the pleasure of the Nizam and views of the Governor General.

From—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 9th March 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my dispatch No. 17 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

MY LORD,

The several dispatches, which I have done myself the honour to address to your Lordship, respecting the present state of affairs at this court contain perhaps all the information which is sufficient to enable Government to come to an immediate decision upon the important subject that has been referred by the Nizam to the consideration of your Lordship in Council, but it may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be furnished with the result of my deliberations upon the most advantageous arrangement for the Government of this state, with reference to the actual condition of affairs at this Court, the personal disposition and character of the Nizam, and the future stability of our alliance.

2. As the Right of the British Government to interpose its influence in the selection of a successor to the office of prime minister and consequently in the general arrangement for the Government of this country has been clearly and formally acknowledged by the Nizam and as His Highness has declared his resolution to be guided by the advice of his ally in framing that arrangement, it only remains for us to consider which mode of arrangement is likely to be most agreeable to the Nizam himself and most conducive to the permanent interests of the allied states.

3. I have already taken the liberty to express an opinion that the interests of the British Government will be best consulted by that mode of arrangement which shall leave to Rajah Chandulal the largest share of active influence and authority in the future administration of the country, and although I am far from ascribing to the Rajah any distinguished or extraordinary merit on his capacity of a minister yet when his character and qualification are brought into comparison with those of any other public officer at this Court, I can consciously declare that in my judgment there is no other arrangement which is likely to be more conducive to the prosperity of this country.

4. From the confidence which the Nizam on the whole has reposed in Chandu Lal for the last two years, and the influence which that person has acquired over the greater part of the Mahal, it may fairly be concluded that there is no man on whose character we could place any dependence, who would altogether be so acceptable to the Nizam and his family.

5. I am therefore of opinion that the permanency of Chandulal's influence and control over the executive branch of the Government should be made the leading principle of every arrangement for the future administration of this country.

6. It is very much with a view to that important object, that I should be disposed to estimate the comparative advantages of the several plans that have been referred to your Lordship's consideration.

7. The two plans which I consider the most eligible are, either the appointment of the Prince Nasir Jang as Wullee Ahud, leaving all the Executive duties of the ministerial office to the control and direction of Rajah Chandulal or the appointment of a regular successor to Meer Alum, who would be likely to admit Chandu Lal to his confidence and allow him to exercise the same authority which was delegated to him by Meer Allum.

8. In my official dispatch No. 14 I have ventured to express my opinion of the advantages of the former of these plans, but at that time, I conceived that it would not suit the jealous temper of the Nizam. However, since that dispatch was written, the subject has been much discussed in the Mahal, and the plan has been seriously recommended to the Nizam, both by the eldest Begums and the Chandnee Begum, his favourite wife and the mother of Nasir Jang. The Nizam has consented to the celebration of the nuptials of Nasir Jang, with the daughter of the Prince Akbar Jah and intends that his son shall in future have a separate establishment suitable to the rank and dignity of the ostensible heir to the throne. I do not exactly know whether these arrangements should be considered as indicative of the Nizam's wishes to confer the office of Wullee Ahud upon his son, but I understand that His Highness has expressed no objection to the plan and the Begums seem assured of his ultimate consent to it.

9. If the Nizam should prepare the plan himself, or if we could ascertain that it would be agreeable to him, I am of opinion that it should be encouraged, though not pressed upon his acceptance. The advantages of this plan appear to me to be these:—

1st.—It will secure Rajah Chandulal the exercise of that degree of influence and authority, which will be so conducive to the tranquillity and prosperity of the country, and to the interests of the alliance.

2nd.—It will be acceptable to all the family of the Nizam, with the exception of the Furzand Begum and Juhanparwar Begum, the sister and niece of Mooneerul Moolk, and it will secure to us the friendship and regard of the Chandni Begum, who possesses the entire confidence of the Nizam.

3rd.—It will put an end to all competition for the office of Minister, and it will obviate those feelings of jealousy and disappointment and ambition which may be produced by conferring the office upon any of the Omrahs about the court.

4th.—It will be agreeable to the chief of the Pagah Party and to many of the principal Omrahs of the state.

5th.—It will facilitate the natural succession to the throne without any danger of disturbance or dispute.

6th.—It will remove the young prince from the tutelage of ignorant women, and dispel the prejudices and . . . . . of his costly education before they have time to take too deep a root in his mind. It will exercise his understanding in the business of life, it will render him gradually acquainted with our character principles and maxims of policy, it will familiarize him to our measure and habits, it will enable him to acquire correct notions of our power and resources, and a just conception of his real interests. In short it will give him a good political education and will insensibly qualify him to fill the throne to which he is heir.

10. The two Omrahs who appear to me to have the strongest pretention to the office of Minister are Shamsul Omrah, and Moonirul Mulk. Neither of them are qualified for the situation; but certainly of the two, Moonirul Moolk has more natural talent, experience, more practice in business, and more knowledge of the European character. On the other hand the family of Shamsul Omrah is more ancient, more powerful and more respected. He is at the Head of the largest Military party in the state and possesses exclusive Jaghirs. Moonirul Moolk has no Military power, and though his personal property be considerable, his Jaghirs are very trifling. Shamsul Omrah looks more to the dignity of the station, and Moonir-ul-Moolk more to its emoluments. Though Shamsul Omrah be inferior in talent, yet his character is by no means so exceptionable as that of Moonirool Moolk. Besides Shamsul Omrah will have the benefit of his uncle's advice and assistance, who has a very sound judgment and is much respected by the Nizam. Shamsul Omrah will place implicit confidence in Chandulal and I am very much afraid that Moonirool Moolk will always be jealous of him.

11. The advantages which are likely to attend the appointment of Shamsul Omrah are:—

1st.—That Chandulal would possess and would be at liberty to exercise, complete authority over the Government of the country.

2nd.—That the ministry would probably be conducted with becoming dignity, steadiness and regularity.

3rd.—That we should be able to attach to ourselves the most powerful and respectable party in the state.

12. The advantages which would arise from the elevation of Munirul Moolk to the office of minister, proceed, first from his close connection with Meer Allum, which would probably induce him to follow the system of his predecessor, and ought to attach him to the interests of the British Government and secondly, from the personal experience he has had of the operation of the alliance and his knowledge of our character, habits and modes of transacting business.

13. The objections against his being appointed are:—

1st.—The uncertainty whether the Nizam's sentiments of Moonirul Moolk be really changed and whether Moonirul Moolk is likely to retain any influence over His Highness.

2nd.—The jealousy which Moonirul Moolk entertains of Rajah Chandu Lal, and the uncertainty whether they can ever be cordially united.

14. In estimating the degree of weight that ought to be attached to these objections it will be necessary to take into consideration the following circumstances:—

1st.—That Chandni Begum being the eldest and favourite wife of the Nizam, must feel some jealousy at the Juhan Parwar Begum who though she does not enjoy so much consideration in the family of His Highness, aspires to more dignity, from her connection with Azimul Omrah and from the ceremony of her marriage having been celebrated with the greatest publicity and splendour. Both these Begums have borne several children but those by the Chandni Begum are much older and her eldest son is called Burre Saheb, and is considered to be the natural heir to the throne. It has already occurred to the Chandni Begum, that if Moonirul Moolk be appointed Minister, and be supported by the British Government he may endeavour to fix the successor in the eldest son of the Nizam by the Juhan Parwar Begum, who is anxious to marry her eldest daughter to Abdulla Sahib, the son of Moonirul Moolk and grandson of Meer Allam. At all events Moonirul Moolk and his family will always be objects of jealousy to the Chandni Begum who has most influence in the Mahal, and he must depend upon the support of his niece who is by no means a favourite with the Nizam.

2nd.—That Chandu Lal from the sincere respect which he feels for the memory of Meer Allum, would not attempt to oppose the views of Moonirul Moolk, yet it is certain that he would prefer the appointment of a Wullee Ahud, or of Shamsul Omrah. He is fearful that Moonirul Moolk, when once fixed in office would endeavour to deprive him of the confidence of the Nizam, and to drive him from the situation of Paishkar. To account for the alarm which Chandu Lal feels on this subject, it is necessary that I should state to your Lordship that some months before the death of Meer Allum, Moonirul Moolk attempted to deprive Chandu Lal of the office of Paishkar, and to procure it for Shiv Prasad, who had either paid, or offered, to Moonirul Moolk one lack of rupees for his services on that occasion. I do not know how far the intrigue set on foot by Moonirul Moolk might have proceeded if I had not disclosed it to Meer Allum, who instantly put a stop to it, by threatening to banish Moonirul Moolk to Aurangabad. The Meer afterwards reconciled Chandu Lal to Moonirul Moolk, and as both parties seemed satisfied, the Meer solicited that I would not mention the circumstance in my public correspondence nor should I think it necessary to recur to it at present, if I were not desirous of showing that the apprehension felt by Chandulal is not quite imaginary and if Moonirul Moolk had not lately repeated his attempts to injure Chandu Lal, by accusations before the Nizam very prejudicial to the character of the Rajah, and by getting his niece to advise the Nizam to bestow the office of Paishkar on Roop Lal.

15. If the three plans, which I have mentioned, were equally agreeable to the Nizam, and that his choice did not appear to induce more to one than the other, I should prefer the appointment of Nasir Jang as Wullee Ahud or Nominal Minister, leaving all the executive duties of the office to the control of Rajah Chandu Lal. If the Nizam did not manifest some anxiety to carry that plan into effect, but seemed to incline to the regular appointment of a Minister, I should on the whole prefer the appointment of Shamsul Omrah to that office. But if His Highness evinced the slightest objection to the appointment of Shamsul Omrah and continued to manifest a favourable disposition towards Moonirul Moolk, it might then be advisable to confirm his choice of the latter person.

16. It would not perhaps be difficult to ascertain the real sentiments of the Nizam, by laying the three plans before him and by desiring him to exercise a perfect liberty in the choice of one of them. Nor would it be difficult to direct his choice if your Lordship should conceive any of the plans to be decidedly superior to the other two an indirect hint to Chandu Lal, Rooplal, Umjudul Moolk, and the Begum would probably be all that is necessary to get the Nizam to propose either of the three plans and the slightest recommendation from your Lordship would determine His Highness's choice in favour of that plan, which your Lordship might consider to be the best suited to the mutual interests of the allied states.

17. Until I shall be honoured with your Lordship's decision upon this important subject, I shall continue to observe the most scrupulous neutrality and shall cautiously abstain from all further agitation of the question; so that I may be at perfect liberty to give the fullest effect to any system of measures that your Lordship may judge to be best adapted to the temper of this Court, most agreeable to the personal feelings of the Nizam, and most favourable to the permanent interests of the British Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad:
The 20th January 1809.

T. SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad

Letter No. 15.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Sydenham's address to the Governor-General dated February 1809. The entire address has not been communicated to Jenkins but only from para. 17. This document contains the names of all the claimants to the office of Prime Minister and an estimate of their character and suitability to the office. The part played by the Begums is significant and is fully explained. The accompanying papers are also important.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 17th April 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you copies of the enclosures to my official dispatch No. 15 to the Governor General.

* * * *

17. I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the papers marked 'A' which form an appendix to this dispatch, for an account, of the measures taken by Umjudul Moolk to obtain the office of Minister for his nephew and of the communications which have passed between us on that subject. Your Lordship will observe that these Omrahs at first declined the encouragement which was held forth to them to apply for the situation, that afterwards they did not agitate the subject at Court until they had previously ascertained that I should not oppose their views, and that their proceedings and communications are distinguished by great frankness and dignity.

18. As it will rest with your Lordship to decide what degree of support it may suit our interests to afford to the pretentions of these Omrahs it may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be made acquainted with my sentiments respecting their character. Shamsul Omrah is a young man about 28 years old, fair, handsome, of mild disposition and manners. His understanding is said to be weak and there is a vacancy in the expression of his countenance which strongly confirms that report. He has a difficulty of utterance, and seldom speaks. He is curious in all articles of European manufacture and is ambitious of having his house, furniture and equipage as much as possible according to the European fashion. He takes great delight in mechanics, handicrafts and the popular experiments of natural philosophy. The whole of his time is devoted to those . . . and he leaves the management of the affairs, and the command of his party to his maternal uncle Umjud-ul-Moolk.

19. Umzud-ul-Moolk is an elderly man, with much the appearance of a respectable old soldier. His demeanour is grave, and his manners are formal. He is perefectly illiterate, and very ignorant, but he seems to possess a certain rectitude of judgment and a plain downright sense, which enable him to conduct himself with admirable decorum, properiety and steadiness. He was

always treated with great confidence by the late Nizam and the present Nizam looks up to him with much deference and respect. He is not often consulted, but whenever his opinion has been required it always appeared to me to be plain, honest and much to the purpose. He is said to be constant and uniform in his friendship, and extremely punctual in the performance of his engagements. He has not much experience in business and the concerns of the Pagah Lands and the payment of the Pagah troops are let entirely to the management of Mootesuddies of whom Jaishankar Dass is at present the principal.

20. In both these Omrahs I have always observed considerable dignity and steadiness of character and conduct. a pride which renders them much above all petty intrigue and all jealousy of the advancement and good terms of other persons. They seem too conscious of the superiority of their rank and station to fear any competitor. They confine themselves to their own business and appear to take no interest in other people's concerns. They are fond of having Europeans in their service and treat them with great consideration and kindness. Since my arrival at this place their conduct has been perfectly unexceptionable. I have never heard anything of them which could lead me to suspect that they are at all inimical to the interestts of the alliance and indeed Umzad-ul-Moolk (as your Lordship will perceive by some of my dispatches to Sir George Barlow) has frequently exerted his influence over the Nizam's mind to the benefit of the alliance. Although I have had very little personal intercourse with them, we regularly exchange complimentary messages and they have always been extremely civil and courteous to me.

21. Though Umzudul Moolk announced his intention to me of addressing an Arzee to the Nizam on the subject of Shamsul Omrah's views, yet I have not learnt that he has made so direct an application to His Highness to appoint his eldest son, Minister. Indeed it is probable that the measure of constituting the young prince, Wallee Ahud, would be so agreeable to the leaders of the Pagah party as well as to most of the Omrahs about the Court that Umzadul Moolk would not think of placing the pretentions of Shamsul Omrah in competition with such an arrangement.

22. Previously to the death of Meer Allum, it did not appear that Moonirul Moolk had the most distant expectation of succeeding his father-in-law. When the Meer, a short time before he became insensible, took a last leave of the females of his family, he looked at his daughter, the wife of Moonirul Moolk, with great tenderness and concern, and said "If your brother Mir Dowran, had been alive, my office might have descended to my family, but the Nizam bears such enmity towards your husband that His Highness will never be brought to confer my office upon him. God knows whether he will be suffered to enjoy liberty or life. I have lived longer than I expected and I am satisfied. The only anxiety I feel is for you, your husband and your children. I leave you

all to the protection of my friend Captain Sydenham and I know he will never forsake you. Consider him as the guardian of your children. If it had not pleased God to take away my son" but the Meer could not proceed and burst into tears. These were almost the last words that he uttered. Even at the funeral of Meer Allum the grief of Moonirul Moolk seemed to be quite absorbed in fears for his property and life. He repeatedly asked my Mowlvee whether he might depend upon the safety of his person, that he would abandon his property and be satisfied with an asylum at the Residency. From this state of suspense and agitation he was received with great kindness by the Nizam, who spoke to him in terms of consolation of the death of Meer Allum and who sent a message of assurance to the whole family. His Highness ordered him to attend at the palace twice a day, and by his language and demeanour, taught him to believe that he would immediately succeed his father-in-law. Indeed such was the general expectation of this event, that some of the Courties and Mootesuddies proposed to present their Nuzzurs to him.

23. Moonirul Moolk suggested the propriety of His Highness's writing a note to me to announce his intention and that the Juhan Parwar Begum sent the draft of a note for His Highness's consideration. The Nizam approved of the draft, the note, was written and sealed, and I was led to expect the receipt of it. However His Highness did not send the note; and when he was urged to dispatch it by the Juhan Parwar Begum, he replied that neither she nor her uncle understood the forms, which ought to be observed on such occasions. That a letter to the Governor General informing the death of the late Minister must precede any intimation to the Resident of his intention to appoint another; that measures of such importance should not be hastily taken and that he ought not to make the appointment without first consulting the Resident's advice. At the repeated solicitation of Juhan Parwar Begum he promised to speak to me on the subject the first time I should attend the Durbar and when I went to the palace, Moonirul Moolk said to me aside that His Highness intended to require any opinion respecting a successor to Meer Allum, that he was the servant of the Company and that he looked up to me for everything in life. However the Nizam neither on that, nor a subsequent occasion spoke a word upon the subject nor did His Highness give me any opportunity of alluding to it.

24. The sudden and violent change in His Highness's disposition towards Moonirul Moolk was the cause of no less surprize and wonder to me than to every person in the city. For the last three years His Highness has uniformly betrayed the most rancorous animosity against Moonirul Moolk, and never mentioned his name but with the most abusive epithets. I recollect that Moonirul Moolk in the presence of Meer Allum, once told me that the Nizam declared, that he wished that Moonirul Moolk was cut into small pieces to feed the Crows at the palace gate. Indeed I imagined

that a great deal of the Nizam's ill-humour towards the Meer proceeded from his violent hatred of Moonirul Moolk, and I often recommended to the Meer that they should live separately, or that Moonirul Moolk should go and live at Aurangabad, with expectation that absence might diminish His Highness's animosity.

25. It was sometime before I could come at any distinct information of the courses of this extraordinary change. I have now ascertained that Moonirul Moolk set on foot a negotiation for the place of Minister as soon as Meer Allum's case became hopeless, that he procured the support of Jyniatoonissa Begum (the Nizam's mother) by the promise of a large sum of money and by engaging to effect the release of Rajah Rajendra that he prevailed upon the Chandni Begum to use her influence in his favour by the offer of 50,000 Rupees and by making her believe that Chandu Lal's interests were as much concerned as his own in the proposed arrangement, and that he obtained their general consent to the plan, by persuading them, that he had secured the support of the British Government. There can be no doubt, that not only the Begums, but even the Nizam were impressed with a belief amounting to conviction that it would be vain to propose any other person but Moonirul Moolk for the office of Minister; because we were resolved at all hazards to insist upon his nomination. The corresponding reports which have reached me from distinct sources of intelligence, the frank declaration of Chandu Lal, the eagerness and anxiety of Moonirul Moolk to precipitate the Nizam into formal declaration of his intention and finally the course of subsequent events, all these, taken together amount to a clear proof of the means which Moonirul Moolk employed to secure the object of his ambition.

26. It was some time before the Nizam and the Begums began to suspect that we had not come to a previous determination to favour the pretentions of Moonirul Moolk against every competitor for the office, but since the Begums have been undeceived, their anxiety for his success with the exception of his own sister and niece, has nearly subsided, and I believe the Nizam is at least quite indifferent towards him. I have never expressed the slightest objection against him; at the same time I have not thought it prudent or becoming to encourage pretentions, that were founded upon gross misrepresentation. If the Nizam had voluntarily preferred Moonirul Moolk, either from motives of respect to the memory of Meer Allum or from an uninfluenced desire to do a gracious and acceptable act to the British Government, I should have endeavoured to confirm his choice but as it became evident that the Nizam's seeming preference was in some degree a constrained act, and proceeded from a mistaken notion of our views, I thought it a wiser as well as a more dignified policy to undeceive the Nizam by my general conduct and language, and to leave him a perfect liberty of choice.

27. There are certainly some circumstances which would render it desirable to favour the views of Moonirul Moolk, but as it is of importance that your Lordship's election should be made with a perfect knowledge of his character and habits, I think it necessary to communicate what I have observed of them from a constant intercourse with him for the last three years.

28. Moonirul Moolk has all the little vices of a man of weak understanding who has been bred up by women and spends most of his time amongst them. He is timid, ignorant, bigotted, extremely superstitious, full of little jealousies and suspicious, curious of other people's concerns, effeminate in his language and manners, and abounding in professions and compliments. He seems incapable of any warm and steady attachment, listens to every little tale of calumny, and has not candour or spirit enough to trust any person. He is fond of money and never refuses the smallest or largest bribe. He is not quite illiterate. He has gone through some part of the common Book language of the Mussalmans, but he has no other knowledge, and has no curiosity for liberal or useful information. He has not been accustomed to the transactions of affairs of importance; but he has acquired some facility in the management of small concerns, and in expediting matters of more detail. He has no experience in the business of any of the principal departments of the state, but he is well acquainted with all the current business between the Residency and the Durbar. He mixes with ease and addresses in the society of Europeans, and has become familiarized to some of their peculiar habits and customs. He is of course acquainted with the most striking parts of our national character, and has caught up some of our leading maxims of policy and Government. His timidity would deter him from engaging in any deep or dangerous intrigues, and there is nothing of a restless or turbulent ambition in his character. He would probably be contented to carry on business as smoothly as possible and would think it prudent to be guided by the advice of the Resident. The most objectionable parts of his character as a public man are his duplicity and his inveterate propensity to secret intrigues which render it difficult to understand on what ground he stands, and dangerous to trust him with information of consequences. I observed that Meer Allum never permitted him to be present when any subject of importance was to be discussed by us. It would not be safe therefore to trust entirely to his principles but it would not perhaps be difficult to control him by his fears.

29. With respect to the intelligence which has been communicated to me regarding the late proceedings of Moonirul Moolk and the Nizam's real sentiments towards him, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the separate packet of papers marked 'B'. It is proper that I should mention that the numbers 1 and 2 are translations of the reports sent to me by Moonirul Moolk. I believe that entire credit may be given to every word of the statement furnished by Chandu Lal on No. 3. Rajah Roop Lal has

charge of the Nizam's private treasury both in Hyderabad and in Golkunda, he manages all the expenses of the Mahal, and is superintendent of the Jagheers held by the different Begums. He was attached to the present Nizam before His Highness ascended the Musnud; and since the expulsion of Mahipat Ram, Roop Lal is supposed to be the greatest personal favourite of the Nizam.

30. A short time after Meer Allum's death, Jyniatoonissa Begum sent me a message which led to several communications between us respecting Rajah Rajendra. The messages to me from the Mahal were brought in the name both of Bukshi Begum and Jyniatoonissa Begum, but I discovered that the former, who takes little concern in public affairs and spends most of her time in devotional exercises had been persuaded to lend her name to give a greater importance to the messages. Jyniatoonissa Begum has always been a firm advocate of Rajah Rajendra, and she thought the present a good opportunity to procure his release, and if possible,-his elevation to some post of consequence. I entered very largely and unreservedly into the subject of Rajendra, because I thought it right to convince her and the Nizam that we should oppose the enlargement and a . . . the return to power of Rajendra.

31. I do not believe that the Nizam himself is much interested about that person, for he has firmly and steadily resisted all the Begum's efforts to bring Rajendra into office. She certainly gave assurances which Moonirul Moolk made her, of procuring at least the liberty of Rajendra, and she no doubt entertained hopes, that sooner or later Rajendra might be brought into his former office of Paishkar. But the result of her communications with me convinced her of the vanity of those hopes and of the duplicity of Moonirul Moolk. She immediately withdrew her support from Moonirul Moolk, made a slight struggle to induce the Nizam to appoint Rajendra Minister and failing in that, she has now united with Chandni Begum to prevail upon the Nizam to make his eldest son Wallee Ahud.

32. Moonirul Moolk must have been perfectly aware of the total impracticability of effecting the Begums wishes respecting Rajendra, and he probably made those assurances to her, merely because he knew that there was no way so certain to obtain her good offices in his favour. The papers marked 'C' contain statements of the several communications which passed between the Begums and myself respecting Rajah Rajendra.

33. Another competitor for the office of Minister is Sheyaroo Dowlah. He is a young man of very prepossessing appearance, has paid some attention to his studies, and is accomplished in all the Military exercises of the country. The Nizam has always treated him with great kindness, and considers him faithfully attached to his person. But he is quite unaccustomed to business, rapacious, and his disposition is said to be rather oppressive. Most of his own connections are of a turbulent character and his family which is

not respectable, owe their elevation to the patronage of Azimool Omrah and to the marriage of Sheyaroo Dowlah with the illegitimate daughter of Shaool Moolk.

34. Although Sheyaroo Dowlah has constantly maintained a friendly intercourse with the Residency and is most profuse of his professions of attachment to the Company yet, I have often had occasion to suspect him of insincerity. I believe that to the last he espoused the interests of Mahipat Ram and I have good grounds for supposing that he still corresponds with that person.

35. I do myself the honour to convey to your Lordship a translation of the Arzee which Sheyarool Moolk presented to the Nizam through the Nawab Begum, widow of the late Azimool Omrah, soliciting the appointment of Minister. The Nizam returned no answer to that Arzee, and did not grant the request of Sheyaroo Dowlah for a private audience. Indeed the ascendancy of Moonirul Moolk was so great that Sheyaroo Dowlah soon relinquished all expectation of procuring the office of Prime Minister and aimed at the renewal of the office of Vakil, or Minister for foreign affairs. But not meeting with much encouragement upon that point, he affects at present to look to nothing more than an increase of his personal Jagheer and the command of a large Rissalah of horse. The fact is that Moonirul Moolk had so completely monopolized the good offices of the female attendants of the Mahal by his bribes and presents that it was not in the power of Sheyaroo Dowlah to convey an Arzee to the Nizam or to any of the principal Begums.

36. Within these few days, Ihtisamul Moolk, by the advice of his family, has thought of aspiring to the Ministry, but though a most worthy respectable character and an old and faithful servant of the state, he is now so infirm and decrepit, that he is quite incapable of the active duties of so high an office. However Moonirul Moolk has manifested some jealousy of his views and has endeavoured to persuade the Nizam that Ihtisamool Moolk is nearly blind, and that it would be charitable to relieve him of the duties of principal Moonshi, and to dispense with his attendance at Durbar. During Meer Allum's life time Ihtisamool Moolk seldom went to Durbar, except when he was particularly required in his official capacity leaving all the business of his office to be performed by his son Rashiduddoula. But since the Meer's death, Ihtisamul Moolk has been regular in his attendance at Durbar which circumstance seems to have excited the jealousy of the Moonirul Moolk.

37. I understand that Mustikim Uddoula had addressed an Arzee to the Nizam, soliciting in general terms, His Highness's favour and protection, but I do not know whether the Arzee reached the Nizam or whether if it did any answer was given to it. Mustakim Uddoula possesses more talent of a particular description than any Omrah at Hyderabad. He is very expert in intrigues and has great cunning, address, and worldly knowledge. There it

no Mootesuddie under the Government who is more thoroughly acquainted with the business and state of every department. But he is void of all principle and is very tyrannical.

38. I shall lose no time in submitting to your Lordship in a separate dispatch, statements of the several communications which have passed between the Nizam and myself relative to the appointment of a minister, and in forwarding to the Persian Department a Khureeta from His Highness to your Lordship upon that subject.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad:
February 1809.

T. SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad.

A No. 1

On the evening of the 11th December the Nizam directed Chandu Lal to go to Shamsul Omrah and Umzadul Moolk and ask them what it would be prudent to do in the present conjuncture of affairs. Rajah Chandu Lal went to Shamsul Omrah and proposed the question to him: but Shamsul Omrah referred them to Umzadul Moolk who said "this a very delicate question, which cannot be answered immediately but I will think of it, and give you an answer tomorrow". However neither Umzadul Moolk nor Shamsul Omrah would state distinctly what they thought or wished, and the Nizam did not repeat the question.

A true copy.
CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No. 2

Soon after the death of Meer Allum, Umzadul Moolk sent me a message to the following purport. That during the life-time of Meer Allum all the respectable Omrahs were confident that the Government of the country would be carried on in a manner suitable to the interests of the state. But now they must look to me to watch over those interests. That the selection of a proper successor to Meer Allum would be difficult, but he and his friends had no doubt of my advising the Nizam to confer the appointment on some trust-worthy person who would be acceptable to the Omrahs and would protect the inhabitants of the country.

That he and his friends were soldiers, unaccustomed to political business or accounts, and who had no anxiety for the station of Minister. He therefore hoped that I did not think of any of his party as a successor to Meer Allum. That the day after the Meer's death, the Nizam had given him some encouragement to apply for the situation, but that both Shamsul Omrah and himself had thought it prudent to keep on one side, and not to interfere

I made a suitable reply and said, I was much flattered by the good opinion of so respectable a party as the Pagah party. That I had no other object in view, but the good of the country and the interests of the alliance and should give such advice to the Nizam as I thought most conducive to his advantage.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No. 3

A few days after this, the Mowlavi received a message from Jaishankar Das, the Paishkar of the Pagah Party, to state that Shamsul Omrah and Umzadul Moolk did not require the situation of minister, but they wished to know whether, if it were offered to either of them I had any objection to their accepting it. That they would do nothing without my advice and consent.

I replied that I know of no objection to their accepting any situation of importance which might be offered to them but that I could make no promises until I had received the instructions of the Governor General.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No. 4

On the evening of the 6th January Umzadul Moolk sent to me to say that he intended to address an Arzee to His Highness soliciting the situation of Minister for Shamsul Omrah. That he should communicate his intention to the Bukshee Begum and prevail upon her to deliver the Arzee to the Nizam.

That the regard which the Chief of the Pagah Party felt for me, and the confidence they had in my candour and justice had induced him to make an immediate and frank disclosure of their views to me. That they should enter into no intrigue to obtain the situation. If the Nizam chose to confer it upon them, it was well; if not, they should not be displeased or disappointed. That they should not have thought of the situation if they conceived that the appointment of Shamsul Omrah would be disagreeable to me, because they were convinced of the necessity of a perfect cordiality between the Resident and the Minister. But hearing I took no interest in the promotion of any particular person and that I only required such a minister as would attend to the prosperity of the country and to the interests of their alliance, they had thought it proper to advance their claims. That I knew their characters, and if I should be called upon by the Nizam for my opinion, they only wished me to tell His Highness what I really thought of them.

However if any circumstances with which they might be unacquainted, should render me adverse to the promotion of their views, they requested I would tell them so, and they would not agitate their claims, they did not wish to solicit the situation, in opposition to my wishes, nor would they accept it if offered to them, without they were certain of my sanction and support.

My reply to Umzadul Moolk was nearly as follows: That every thing which I had heard of Umzadool Moolk and Shamsul Omrah had given me a very favourable opinion of their characters, and I had no doubt they would do credit to any office. That I was not personally interested in the success of any person and only required an upright honest minister who had a proper sense of the benefit of the existing alliance and would contribute to the prosperity of the country. That further I could only repeat what I had said on a former occasion that my conduct would be guided by the instructions which I should receive from Calcutta and by the wishes of the Nizam.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No. 5

On the evening of the 7th of January Bukshi Begum took an opportunity of recommending Shamsul Omrah as a noble man, Omrah of distinguished birth and irreproachable conduct, whose family had always enjoyed, and deserved the confidence of the Asofia house. That at present there was no person at court particularly celebrated for talent or experience in public business; and that in point of birth and rank and fidelity there was no person who has higher pretentions to the office of Minister than Shamsul Omrah.

The Nizam replied that he admitted what the Begum had said. That he had hitherto fixed upon no particular person for the office of Minister. That his only wish was to find out a man capable of doing the duties of that office, and who would be acceptable to the British Government. That he had communicated his sentiments to the Resident who had recommended him to address a letter on the subject to the Governor General, which he intended to do. That in the letter it was his intention to allude to the advice which Rajah Chandu Lal had given to him. That Chandu Lal had mentioned the name of Shamsul Omrah in the list of Omrahs. That the pretentions, characters and capacities of those persons were perfectly known to the Resident, who would of course communicate his sentiments of them to the Governor General. That the Governor General would give him such advice as he might judge, best for the interest of the state. That he should take no other step but wait for the answer of the Governor General, and be directed by his advice.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No. 6

The day before the Nizam sent the Khurreetah to the Governor General to the Resident he directed Mama Burrain to go to Umzadul Moolk and obtain his answers to the three following questions: 1st. Have you heard what has passed between Mowlvee Mir Ebn Ali and me and what do you think of it? 2nd. Shall I send the Khureetah to the Governor General or not? 3rd. What arrangement do you think should be made regarding the appointment of a Minister?

To these questions, Umzadul Moolk returned the following answers :—

1st.—I have heard all that has passed between your Highness and the Mowlvee, and I think that the Resident has given your Highness excellent advice, and has proved his attachment to your person.

2nd.—I think your Highness should lose no time in dispatching the Khurreetah to the Governor General, because it is proper that the advice of your ally should be taken upon an arrangement of such importance.

3rd.—I think Chandulal is the most capable and faithful servant your Highness has and as long as he is entrusted with the management of your affairs, I think that the country will prosper. He is also a friend to both Governments, and he will contribute to the strengthening of the friendship between your Highness and the Company. I am of opinion that your Highness should confer the situation of Minister on your eldest son, and leave the Management of the country to Chandu Lal.

His Highness heard those.

B No. 1

Substance of a conversation between His Highness the Nizam and Moonirul Moolk which took place on the 11th December 1808.

Moonirul Moolk received His Highness the Nizam's command to attend the presence, after sunset. He accordingly repaired thither at the appointed time. The Useel of Juhan Parwar Begum represented to him that it was His Highness's pleasure that he should communicate his thoughts to His Highness without reserve or concealment. Moonirul Moolk and Chandu Lal were much perplexed at this message, and begged to know on what subject High Highness wished Moonirul Moolk to address him. His Highness returned for answer that Moonirul Moolk should state all his views and sentiments. From the tenor of this communication Moonirul Moolk discovered that His Highness wished him to apply for the office of Minister. He accordingly sent in an application to that effect. His Highness after perusing the address sent for Moonirul Moolk alone into the Zanana. When Moonirul Moolk had paid his respects, His Highness requested to know what he had to say on the subject of his address. Moonirul Moolk observed that it was impossible for him to speak on the subject, that His Highness was his sovereign and that his office was "to carry His Highness's slippers". That this office had been hereditary in four generations of his family, that whatever His Highness did, was just and proper, and that if His Highness should honour him with the appointment of Minister, his life, property and family should be devoted to His Highness's service. His Highness said "very well but there must be no interruption in the good understanding and friendship subsisting between the allied states". Moonirul Moolk replied that by the blessing of God this good understanding and friendship had attained a degree of stability which it was not in the power of any person to disturb; and that he who was guilty of the attempts, would be the only sufferer, that he had lived between four and five years with Meer Allum, and was well convinced that it was the earnest desire of Captain Sydenham and of all the officers of the Hon'ble Company's Government that His Highness's mind should void of anxiety and apprehension, and that His Highness's happiness and the prosperity of his country should increase daily and he swore by God and his prophet, and by his allegiance to his sovereign that his conduct should be strictly conformable to these principles. His Highness was satisfied with these assurances and dismissed Moonirul Moolk, with instructions to repair with Rajah Chandulal to the presence on the following morning. His Highness appeared in great spirit during this interview.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

B No. 2

Substance of intelligences from the city, of the 13th December.

On the night of the 13th instant Farzand Begum, the mother of Juhan Parwar Begum, who is His Highness the Nizam's wife sent to Jyniatoonissa Begum, the mother of His Highness, a written agreement from Moonirul Moolk which she requested might be forwarded to His Highness, who she trusted, would be induced to place every degree of confidence in Moonirul Moolk. Furzand Begum further stated that she would be answerable that Moonirul Moolk would on every occasion consult His Highness's pleasure. Jyniatoonissa Begum accordingly delivered this paper to her son, assured him that Furzand Begum would be responsible for the good conduct of Moonirul Moolk and requested that he might be appointed to the office of Minister. His Highness observed to his mother that there were political matters in which she could have no pretentions to interfere and as for Farzand Begum, how was it possible for a person of her age to be answerable for the acts of Government, that until he had consulted the British Government, who were the guarantees of the permanence of his prosperity and of the stability of his state, he could not confer the appointment upon any person that he was confident that whatever might be his own inclinations on the subject, the British Government would not oppose but acquiesce in them, but that it was necessary and proper in the first instance to consult the British Government.

B (a)

Translation of an application from Moonrul Moolk to His Highness the Nizam for the office of Minister, dated 11th December.

If your Highness with your accustomed favour towards your dependants should be pleased to honour me with the appointment of Minister, my life and property shall be devoted to your Highness's service and I will never act against your Highness's wishes. Whatever may be your Highness's pleasure I shall strictly conform to on all occasions.

Translation of a memorandum prepared by His Highness the Nizam to which Moonirul Moolk is required to subscribe.

I will pay constant attention to the conduct of the affairs of the Government, to the welfare of the inhabitants, to the prosperity of the country, and to the protection of the state from those who are hostile to its interests, and I will guard against their deceitful and malicious insurrections. I will consult His Highness's tranquillity by preventing complaints from reaching His Highness, and I will preserve unimpaired all subsisting engagements. Let His Highness's mind be perfectly at ease, on all these points.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL.
First Assistant.

B No. 3

Memorandum of the conversation which passed between Rajah Chandu Lal and Mowlvee Mir Ebn Ali on the night of the 21st December 1808.

MOWLVEE: The Resident, since the death of Meer Allum, has received various reports of the circumstances which have taken place relative to Moonirul Moolk. Many of those reports are so contradictory, that the Resident, relying on your veracity and attachment is extremely anxious to receive from you a particular account of all the circumstances within your knowledge, which led to the sudden change of the Nizam's disposition towards Moonirul Moolk. The whole city is acquainted with the violent animosity which the Nizam has shown to Moonirul Moolk for the last three years; and therefore his present partiality for the same person without any ostensible cause, is the more extraordinary and required to be explained.

RAJAH CHANDU LAL: The Resident may depend upon my veracity and attachment, and I will freely communicate to you, all I know upon this subject. Three or four days before the death of Meer Allum, Moonirul Moolk sent for his sister Furzand Begum, under a pretence that she might see Mir Allum but in fact to commence through her means a negotiation for the succession to the Ministry. Moonirul Moolk said to his sister "you see the state of Meer Allum, which is altogether hopeless, and he can scarcely live more than a week. After his death it will be necessary to appoint a successor to him. You know that Meer Allum has strong claims on the friendship and support of the British Government, and those claims will descend to me and my family. I have reason to know that the British Government is anxious that I should succeed Meer Allum and will recommend me for that purpose to the Nizam. To this recommendation it will be necessary for His Highness to pay attention. Whatever objections the Nizam may have to my person, he can have none to my birth, rank and character and connections. He will, therefore, have no plea for objecting to my appointment and whatever be his own sentiments, he will in the end be compelled to follow the advice of the British Government. I am sincerely anxious to avoid all contention and dispute; and I wish to appear to owe my elevation to the spontaneous selection of the Nizam. I, therefore, desire that you and my niece will urge the other Begums to espouse my cause, so that you may all combine to procure the appointment for me. There is no person at Hyderabad whose pretentions are superior to mine. There is no person who is so well acquainted with the customs, habits, and character of the English, their mode of conducting business, and the maxims of their Government. I shall be careful to carry on the administration of affairs in such a manner as shall give satisfaction to all parties. I will make a present to Jyniatoo Nissa Begum of two lacks of rupees, and to my niece Juhan Parwar Begum, of one lack and to Chandni Begum of fifty thousand rupees. I wish you to communicate all I have said to those Begums, and prevail upon them to suggest my appointment to the Nizam, so that the appointment may . . . from His Highness before any direct application in my favour comes to the Resident. Moonirul Moolk also sent messages to a similar effect to Jyniatoo Nissa Begum through Izzat Yar Khan. The Begums were satisfied with these arguments, and united in recommending the arrangement to the Nizam.

The arguments, which they employed with the Nizam, were nearly the following:—

That Moonirul Moolk was a descendant from an old and respectable family, the different members of which had always held important situations under this Government. That his connection with His Highness, with Aristoojah and with Meer Allum would secure to him the support and assistance of the English. That when vacancy occurred, the English would certainly recommend Moonirul Moolk to be Minister, and would prefer him to any other Omrah about the Court. That it would be impossible for His Highness to oppose such a recommendation, because there was no other Omrah, who was better qualified for the office, or who from birth, rank, or connection had superior pretentions to it. On the contrary if His Highness would appoint Moonirul Moolk, without waiting for any recommendation from the English it would make him their own, and would give them a claim on his attachment and fidelity. It would likewise be acceptable to the English and would obviate all dispute, altercation and loss of dignity. That if Moonirul Moolk should be disappointed in his expectation, the English would be displeased, and Moonirul Moolk would become a violent enemy to the Nizam, and it was difficult to say what he might not do with his influence and wealth, supported and assisted by the English.

THE MOWLVEE: In your conversation with the Nizam you proposed several arrangements for the future regulation of the Government of this country. What are your own sentiments upon those different arrangements, and what do you imagine to be the real wishes of the Nizam upon the subject?

CHANDU LAL: I am assured that the Nizam did never consent to any of his sons, being appointed Wallee Ahud, though Chandni Begum is most anxious to procure that appointment for her eldest son.

2nd.—I do not think that the Nizam will propose Shamsul Omrah for the situation of Minister, because he has no opinion of Shamsul Omrah's understanding and the Rajah . . . are too proud to solicit any office.

3rd.—I hope that he will not appoint Sheyaroo Dowlah who is young, unexperienced, and tyrannical. It would be impossible for me to hold my appointment under Sheyaroo Dowlah. If he were made Minister I should immediately retire from office.

4th.—If the Nizam would attend to political concerns himself and would give no full authority to regulate the internal administration of the country, I think, the Government would go on very well. But I am afraid of making everybody my enemy and of getting into a thousand difficulties.

5th.—On the whole it might be as well if Moonirul Moolk were appointed minister. I should not act under him with much confidence and I should require all the support which the Resident could conveniently give me.

The MOWLVEE: I have no particular objection to him. Indeed when I reflect upon the claims which Meer Allum, the whole of his family, the most distant of his relations, or the poorest of his servants, have upon my good offices, I strongly wish that Moonirul Moolk may be appointed Minister. At other times, when I reflect upon his character and disposition and recollect the several attempts which he made to deprive me of the confidence and good opinion of Meer Allum, and to drive me from my office, I feel alarmed to place myself so immediately within his power. He makes me the strongest assurances of his friendship and says that he regards me as a brother; but I know his character too well, to place the slightest confidence in the sincerity of his professions; however, as long as I enjoy the friendship and support of the Resident, I hope it will not be in the power of Moonirul Moolk to injure me.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

B. No. 4.

Memorandum of the conversation which passed between Rajah Roop Lal and Mowlvee Ebn Ali on the night of the 12th of December.

Shortly after the Mir's death the Mowlvee received a message from Rajah Roop Lal intimating his wish to see the Mowlvee privately. The Mowlvee, with the Resident's permission, met Roop Lal on the night of the 12th December, and the following conversation passed between them:—

Rooplal began by speaking warmly in praise of Meer Allum, lamenting his death, and observing there was no person left at Hyderabad capable of succeeding him. He then praised, Rajah Chandu Lal, and said that although there was formerly some jealousy between them, they were now reconciled and were excellent friends. That Chandu Lal never interfered with him, and that the situation he held of Treasurer and the confidence with which he was treated by the Nizam, were sufficient to satisfy his ambition. That he required no further promotion, and only wished to remain as he was.

Roop Lal then said that it appeared probable that Moonirul Moolk would be appointed Minister, provided the Resident did not object to him, for certainly the Nizam would not appoint any person to that office who was objectionable to the British Government.

Roop Lal observed that he was afraid, Moonirul Moolk was not pleased with him, and suspected him of hostility at least of indifference. That if Moonirul Moolk should be appointed minister, he wished the Resident to bring about a perfect reconciliation between them. That from his constant attendance on the person of the Nizam and the confidence with which His Highness treated him he might be of some use to Moonirul Moolk. That he wanted nothing being perfectly satisfied with his present situation. That he looked to the Resident for favour and protection, and should be careful to supply the Resident constantly with accurate intelligence of every thing that passed at the palace and in the Mahal.

The Mowlvee asked Roop Lal what could have induced the Nizam to change his opinion so suddenly of Moonirul Moolk.

Roop Lal replied that it was not so certain that the Nizam's real opinion of Moonirul Moolk has much changed, though his Highness affected in public to be so well disposed towards him. That the sister and niece of Moonirul Moolk had prevailed upon Jyniatoo Nissa Begum and even Chandni Begum to interest themselves in favour of Moonirul Moolk. That Moonirul Moolk had promised all those ladies large sums of money, if he succeeded, and to attend to their several wishes after his appointment. That he had persuaded them that the British Government would recommend him to the Minister. That whatever might be the inclination of the Nizam he would be obliged to take any minister that the British Government chose to recommend, and therefore it would be better to appoint him at once.

The women employed these arguments with the Nizam, as Moonirul Moolk is connected with His Highness, with Aristoojah, and with Meer Allum and as there is no Omrah at Hyderabad whose pretentions are superior to those of Moonirul Moolk, the Nizam thought it prudent to follow the advice of the women.

Roop Lal stated that Moonirul Moolk had applied to him for assistance, and that he had done what he could to promote his success. That both Moonirul Moolk and his brother Aminul Moolk had been very active in securing the good-will and assistance of every person who is supposed to have any influence either with the Nizam or his women.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

B. No. 5

Intelligence procured from the Mahal on the 16th of December.

Although formerly the Nizam never mentioned the name of Moonirul Moolk to dislike him very much, yet that person has contrived to produce an alteration in His Highness's disposition by the following methods:—

1st.—By securing the support and assistance of Jyniatoo Nissa Begum, by promising to bring forward Rajah Rajandra, and if possible by giving him a share in public business.

2nd.—By employing the strongest profession of devotion and attachment to the Nizam. He said that both Meer Allum and Chandu Lal were quite subservient to the British Government, and frequently concealed papers of importance and public accounts from His Highness's inspection. That Chandu Lal, Govind Buksh, and the several Mootesuddies under them owed the Sirkar more than a crore of rupees, and he can prove that balance against them, if he were made minister. He then took a *Koran* and placed it on his head and swore that he would be the slave of His Highness and would never act contrary to His Highness's orders and wishes. that he would conceal nothing from him with many asseverations of the same kind.

The Nizam listened to all he said, but made no reply and soon afterwards retired to his sleeping apartment.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

B. No. 6

21st December 1808.

The Chandni Begum sent word to say that the Nizam when along with her had addressed her to the following effect:—

> You perhaps are surprized at the preference which I give to Moonirul Moolk. But in fact I am not favourably inclined towards him, still dislike him as much as ever. He assures me that he will realize for me one crore of rupees, by a particular adjustment of the public accounts. I am waiting to see how he intends to fulfil his promise, and when I have satisfied myself on that point I shall put him in a level (barabar) with the other Omrahs.

B. No. 7

30th December 1808.

Rooplal sent word that Moonirul Moolk addressed an Arzee to the Nizam, proposing that the Mootesuddies of the different departments should attend and transact their business at his house. This Arzee was conveyed to the Nizam by an Asseel named Mama Amina. The Nizam was much offended at this Arzee, drove Aseel from his presence, and desired another person to tell Moonirul Moolk that he had no concern with the Mootesuddies that they were to attend at the palace with Chandu Lal and carry on their business under his superintendence.

On the same day I heard from a respectable person in the Mahal, that Mama Amina had been prohibited from waiting on the Nizam in future.

The day afterwards I heard that when Chandu Lal quitted the palace with Moonirul Moolk, the Nizam enquired whether Chandu Lal was in waiting. When His Highness was informed that Chandu Lal had retired as usual, with Moonirul Moolk, he said angrily. "What has Chandu Lal to do with Moonirul Moolk. He is to attend Durbar regularly and not to retire till I give him leave, and he is not to come and go with Moonirul Moolk".

B. No. 8

10th January 1809.

Rajah Roop Lal sent me word that Juhan Pawar Begum told the Nizam that she was surprised His Highness did not think of promoting Rajah Roop Lal to the situation of Paishkar, who had always enjoyed his confidence before he ascended the musnud, was entrusted with all his domestic concerns, and was much attached to His Highness. She added "Chandu Lal is a stranger to you, is not exact in his accounts, keeps many things from your knowledge and is a mere servant of the Resident."

The Nizam appeared to listen to this so favourably that Juhan Parwar Begum sent to Roop Lal to enquire whether he would wish to be Paishkar, as she had no doubt of being able to procure that office for him.

Roop Lal replied that he was perfectly satisfied with his present situation and did not aspire to the office of Paishkar, which was already in the possession of the person most worthy of it. That he therefore begged the Begum would not think of agitating that subject as it was contrary to his inclination and might bring him into danger.

Roop Lal further states that Moonirul Moolk pays him particular attention and has sent for him twice or thrice privately. That although nothing particular passed, still that Moonirul Moolk told him that this was the time to unite and push their interests together and that he hoped, if he obtained the office of Minister, that they would be associated (Sharik) in the management of affairs.

True copies.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

C

Statement of the various communications that have passed between the Resident and the two Begums, Bukshee Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum.

But previously to entering upon this statement, it may be useful to convey some information, respecting Kadir Nawaz Khan Izzat Yar Khan, and Syed Himayat Ali.

Kadir Nawaz Khan and Izzat Yar Khan are both physicians and are first cousins to one another.

The Jyniatoo Nissa Begum mother of the present Nizam, was a slave girl of Bukshee Begum's and when she became a favourite of the late Nizam's she discovered or pretended to discover that she was related to the father of Kadir Nawaz Khan. That person was of course very willing to acknowledge a relationship which promised so much advantage to his family; and since that period, the Begum has always called the old man her father, and his son Kadir Nawaz Khan, her brother.

The three physicians, who attended the Begums are Kadir Nawaz Khan, Izzat Yar Khan, and Syed Himayat Ali. But the former is most frequently employed and often visits Jyniatoo Nissa Begum, over whom he is said to possess considerable influence.

Izzat Yar Khan is the principal physician of the Nizam, and has been dignified by the title of Hakimul Moolk. He is also Sudderoo Soodoor, is much esteemed as a scholar, but is known to be of a vicious intriguing disposition. He is the confidential friend and adviser of Moonirul Moolk and manages all his intercourse with Jyniatoo Nissa Begum.

Syed Himayat Ali is a poor, modest, unassuming man, who bears an excellent character, and though a native of this country has travelled over most parts of Hindostan, Arabia, Egypt and Persia.

1st. Syed Himayat Ali called upon the Mowlvee and said he was directed by Bukshee Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum to convey the following message to the Resident :—

That as long as Meer Allum was alive, they felt no anxiety about public affairs knowing that he was much attached to the Nizam and perfectly capable of conducting the Government. That from Meer Allum, as well as from public report, they had received the most favourable account of my character and disposition and were convinced that I had a sincere attachment to the Asophia family. Now that Meer Allum was no more, they naturally looked to me as the guardian of the state, and they depended upon my conducting the affairs of Government in such a way as would promote the interests of the Nizam and increase my own reputation.

That they were desirous of establishing a confidential intercourse, with me, in order that we might occasionally consult upon public affairs. That they considered me as a son of their own and a brother of the Nizam's, that they admired truth and plain dealing and requested I would communicate to them my sentiments without reserve. That I must be well acquainted with the character of the Nizam, and that if I found him obstinate they would give him advice and persuade him to attend to whatever I might recommend. On the other hand they hoped I would listen to their suggestions and conform to their wishes. They had sent Pāndāns to me of which they requested I would accept, as a mark of their regard and confidence.

I directed the Mowlvee to desire Himayat Ali to make my respects to the Begums and to assure them that I felt much honoured by their confidence and much flattered by their favourable opinion unreservedly upon the state of affairs and that if I should ever require the support of their influence, I should be happy to avail myself of it with the conviction of its being irresistible over the mind of the Nizam. That we were accustomed to truth, frankness and plain dealing and that they might depend upon my attachment to the house of Assofia. That we had no other object in view but to preserve the present alliance unimpaired and to contribute to the prosperity and security of this state. That we entertained no design hostile to the dignity or authority of the Nizam, or to the honour of his family and nobles, or to the happiness and ease of his subjects.

That I should be happy to do everything in my power to prove my attachment and respect to the Begums, on all proper and justifiable occasions; but I hoped they would not exact from me any service, which might be inconsistent with my public duty or injurious to the real interests of the state.

That I accepted their pandans with suitable feelings of gratitude and begged they would always consider me as one of their son. But I ventured to suggest to them tne propriety of the Nizam being made acquainted with their intention of establishing an intercourse with me because I made it a rule of conduct not to keep any part of my proceedings concealed from His Highness.

The Mowlvee endeavoured to ascertain what particular objects the Begums had immediately in view because it was impossible that I should bind myself to my obligations of doing all that they required. Himayat Ali said, that I could guess at the two objects but would afford no further explanation. The two objects, at which he hinted are evidently the enlargement of Ragotim Rao and the recall of Mumtazool Omrah.

2nd. A few days after this, the Begums sent a message to the Mowlvee desiring him to get at a certain time to a particular garden near the city, where he would meet Mama Champa, their confidential Aseel.

The Mowlvee in consequence of this message, repaired to the garden at the appointed hour, and met Mama Champa waiting for him.

She told him that the Begums were well satisfied with the answer which I had sent to them, through Syed Himayat Ali whom I was to consider as their confidential messenger, and to whom I might safely entrust all I have to communicate to them. Mama Champa then made several indirect observations regarding the immediate wishes of the Begums, but though she could not be prevailed upon to speak plainly, she evidently alluded to Rajah Rajendar and Mumtazul Omrah.

The Mowlvee repeated general assurances of my sincere desire to pay attention to the wishes of the Begums, but frankly declared that there were some transactions in which I could not possibly engage. That I would willingly promote any object that was for the real interests of the Nizam, but must decline countenancing any plan, which might be injurious to those interests.

Mama Champa desired the Mowlvee to acquaint me that the Nizam was informed of the intention of the Begums to establish a confidential intercourse, with me. She likewise said that Jyniatoo Nissa Begum was very anxious that Moonirul Moolk should be appointed Minister. That he was a freind to both Governments, and one of their own family.

3rd. The Mowlvee received a separate message from Jyniatoo Nissa Begum through Kadir Nawaz Khan who called at the Residency and said many things to the same purport, as Himayat Ali and Mama Champa.

Kadir Nawaz enquired what person I was desirous should be made Minister, as the Begums would undertake to procure the appointment for any person that I chose. He also said that both the Begums were favourably inclined towards Moonirul Moolk whom they considered a friend to both states.

4th. On the 11th of January Sayed Himayat Ali called again upon the Mowlvee and said that Rajendra had not been guilty of any positive crime; that suspicions had been excited against him which had produced his disgrace, dismissal and confinement; that he had suffered severely for whatever he might have committed, that the best men in the world were liable to error, and that it was . . . to mercy to forgive what had passed. That the Begums themselves would be responsible for the future good conduct of Rajendra. That they did not wish to exalt him to any situation. All they required was that he might be permitted to leave his house and occasionally to attend the Durbar. That the Nizam was solicitious for his enlargement, and that Moonirul Moolk would not object to it.

I desired the Mowlvee to tell Himayat Ali that as the Begums had at length declared their wish, I would not deceive them but acquaint them at once that I would never consent to the enlargement of Rajendra. That I could not imagine the Nizam should be solicitous for his release and as far as Moonirul Moolk, it was of little consequence whether he did, or did not, object to it. Indeed I was ignorant what right he possessed to offer any opinion upon such a subject.

The Mowlvee enquired which of the two Begums were most interested about Rajendra, or whether they were equally so. Himayat Ali replied that Bukshee Begum took little concern in public business; that Jyniatoo Nissa Begum was in fact the advocate of Rajendra, and that she had persuaded Bukshee Begum to allow of her name being used in the occasion.

5th. Kadir Nawaz Khan called upon the Mowlvee on the night of the 1st of January and delivered the following message from Jyniatoo Nissa Begum.

That friendship were of two kinds. One fictitious and the other real. That the former consisted of the interchange of compliments and polite enquiries. The latter of doing such things, as are agreeable to one another. That the friendship which the Begum wished to establish with the Resident is of the latter description, and she only required some proof of a similar disposition on the part of the Resident. The Mowlvee enquired what the proofs should consist of. Kadir Nawaz would not mention in direct terms; but hinted plainly enough at the enlargement of Rajendra.

I directed the Mowlvee to tell Kadir Nawaz that no consideration should induce me to deviate from my public duty; that if the Begum really meant the enlargement of Rajendra, I could not comply with her wishes, but that I should at all times be ready to do anything that was agreeable to the Begum and not inconsistent with the duty which I owed to the Nizam as well as to the Government. I represented I begged she would consider this as final anwser upon that subject and that she would abstain from any further recommendation of Rajendra.

A true copy.
CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

D

Translation of an Arzee from Nawab Begum, the wife of the late Ghulam Syed Khan, to His Highness the Nizam.

We, who are the slaves and dependants of your Highness, constantly implore the almighty disposer of gifts to diffuse over our heads the shadow of your Highness in all its splendour and glory. Your faithful and devoted servant Shah Yarool Moolk, is desirous of making certain representations to your Highness.

Translation of an Arzee from Shah Yarool Moolk to His Highness the Nizam enclosed in the above address.

Every part of the conduct of the Ministers of your Highness Government for three or four years past, is manifest to your enlightened mind. Under the divine aid your Highness's prosperity will increase and the affairs of your Government will be conducted in the manner most agreeable to your Highness, and most conformable to the wishes of your sincere dependants and I am convinced that the representations of the Hon'ble Company's Government to whom your Highness' favour is extended will pay due deference to your Highness's interests. I have presumed to touch upon those subjects in a brief manner. If your Highness will honour me with a private audience, I will enter upon them largely.

True copies.
CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Letter No. 16.—The enclosure No. 1 to this covering note is important. It is a copy of Sydenham's address, to the Governor-General, dated 6th February 1809. In this address Sydenham again discusses the claims of the aspirants to the office of Prime Minister, refers to the Nizam's inclination to revive the office of Vakeel and closes by intimating that the Nizam

had sent him a letter addressed to the Governor-General seeking his advise about the appointment of a successor to Meer Allum.

FROM—T. SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

To—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 17th April 1809.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you copies of the enclosures to my official dispatch No. 16 to the Governor-General to be.

To—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,

I now proceed to submit to your Lordship's notice a statement of the several communications, which have passed between the Nizam and myself relative to the appointment of a successor to Meer Allum.

2. During the period that Moonirul Moolk was carrying on his intrigues to secure the nomination in his favour, I made no direct attempt to ascertain His Highness's sentiments upon the subject, but waited till I should be called upon to deliver my opinion upon the arrangement. The whole of the Nizam's language and conduct was so extremely proper and judicious, that I found I could with perfect safety to our interests refrain from agitating the subject, and in the meanwhile, I was usefully occupied in procuring information of His Highness's sentiments, and in discovering the course of the extraordinary change in his demeanour towards Moonirul Moolk.

3. His Highness made no allusion to the subject of the appointment in the first visit which I paid to him after the death of Meer Allum, but was led to expect that he would introduce the subject at our second meeting which took place in the gardens of Lingampally. But neither on that occasion did His Highness touch upon any point of public business.

4. On the evening of the 21st of December, I received a message from the Nizam desiring that I would permit the Mowlvee to attend him the following morning, and I received a private communication from Chandu Lal informing me that the Nizam's object was to sound my inclination regarding a successor to Meer Allum.

5. I desired the Mowlvee to take a proper opportunity of delivering a message from me to the Nizam, expressive of the propriety of His Highness directing his attention to the choice of a minister, and of the Right of the British Government to expect that His Highness' choice would be regulated by a proper regard

to the prosperity of his country and to the interests of the alliance. For the terms in which that message was conveyed I begged leave to refer your Lordship to the 7th paragraph of No. 1 of the accompanying papers. I also gave the Mowlvee particular instructions cautiously to avoid any declaration on my part but to draw the Nizam to an unreserved communication of his sentiments.

6. Your Lordship will remark that the Nizam appeared to balance on his choice between Moonirul Moolk and Sheyaroo Dowlah, though perhaps with some degree of preference to the former. His Highness also hinted at a renewal of the old office of Vakil or person especially appointed to conduct the intercourse between the Resident and the Durbar perhaps with a view of providing for both the Omrahs in question.

7. The decision between the comparative merits of the two persons whom His Highness thought had the strongest claims on his favour, rested entirely with himself and if I had declared any positive opinion upon the subject; I have little doubt that His Highness's choice would have been determined by that opinion. Being thus called upon I thought it expedient to avoid any declaration of my sentiments, and to advise His Highness to refer the subject to your Lordship's consideration.

8. The right of the British Government to interpose its influence in the selection of a successor to the office of the Prime Minister had been acknowledged by the Nizam not only by his general language, but by the reference which he made to me through my principal Moonshi. If any part of that right had been exercised by the Resident, our proceedings might have been attributed to partiality, private views or to motives even of a more doubtful nature. It therefore appeared to me more suitable to the importance of the subject, to advise the Nizam to refer it to the consideration of the Governor-General, in a letter from himself written expressly for that purpose. This procedure not only leaves our right of interference perfectly clear and unimpaired, but it renders the exercise of that right much more public and formal. It would also be attended with the further advantage of giving us time to ascertain the real inclination of the Nizam towards the several candidates, and an opportunity of judging whether the influence, which Moonirul Moolk in particular had acquired would be as permanent as it was sudden and unexpected.

9. For the arguments which were employed to prevail upon the Nizam to address a letter to your Lordship on the subject of the arrangements for a new administration, I beg leave to refer to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report No. 8 in the accompanying papers.

10. The renewal of the office of any distinct channel of intercourse between the Residency and the Durbar appeared to me to be unnecessary, and likely to be productive of much future inconvenience. It is quite unnecessary, because all affairs of importance are transacted by the Resident himself either with the

Minister or the Nizam in person; and all matters of mere detail are managed with ease and facility by the principal Moonshies of the Resident and the Minister. It might be productive of future inconvenience by exciting jealousy between the Minister and the Vakeel, by encouraging that practice of secret and separate intrigues of which there is already too much at this corrupt court, and by rendering the Minister less dependant on the advice and control of the Resident. If the Vakeel were a man of ordinary rank and condition in life immediately subordinate to the Minister, there could be no advantage gained by the creation of an office of which the duties can be just as well carried on by our Moonshies. If the Vakeel were an Omrah of rank, who enjoyed the confidence of the Nizam, then the creation of the office would be likely to produce the inconvenience which I have mentioned. Such is the importance which is attached to the intercourse between the Residency and the Durbar and such the consequence and influence which it confers upon the person who conducts it. That I am well assured that most of the Omrahs would prefer the situation of Vakeel to that of Minister, if their Offices were made distinct, and so much must every minister depend upon the support and assistance of the Resident, that I doubt whether any person of rank and prudence, would willingly accept the office of the Minister, if it were not connected with the entire management of all public intercourse with the Resident. It would be vain to say that the office of Vakeel should be made subordinate to that of Prime Minister, for in the present situation of affairs of two Omrahs nearly of equal rank and pretentions, were appointed to those offices the person who held that of Vakeel would soon rise superior to the Minister in consideration and influence.

11. From all these considerations I thought proper to discourage the renewal of this office, and your Lordship will observe that the Nizam acceded to the justice to the opinion which I directed the Mowlvee to communicate to him upon that subject.

12. If the selection of a successor to Meer Allum rested entirely between Moonirul Moolk and Sheyaroo Dowlah, there can be no doubt that the preference ought to be given to the former, but still, as I had resolved to persuade the Nizam to refer the subject to your Lordship, I thought it becoming to avoid any positive declaration of my sentiments respecting the character and pretensions of those Omrahs. Notwithstanding this I authorized the Mowlvee to let the Nizam understand in an indirect and delicate manner, that of the two Omrahs in question, I should prefer the appointment of Moonirul Moolk to that of Sheyaroo Dowlah.

13. Your Lordship will remark that the result of the second conference which my Mowlvee had with the Nizam was perfectly satisfactory and that His Highness very cheerfully consented to the propriety of his addressing a letter to your Lordship respecting the appointment of a successor to the late minister.

14. His Highness deliberated for a long time on the terms in which he should address your Lordship. Many drafts of letters were prepared but none suited His Highness's fancy and during this period he was recommended by his physicians to make an excursion in the country for the benefit of his health. While he was out in this excursion he passed most of his time in hunting and other amusements, appeared to be in the most cheerful temper, and seemed to forget all public business. As the Government continued to be conducted in its usual routine, and with perfect regularity, under the superintendence of Rajah Chandu Lal there was no immediate necessity for urging the Nizam to carry into effect his intention of writing to your Lordship; and indeed I was anxious that every step in the arrangement for a ministry should be well considered by the Nizam himself, and should seem to proceed from His Highness's uninfluenced judgment. I heard that His Highness had conceived some doubts of the propriety of addressing a letter to your Lordship; but I could not ascertain whether they arose from a reluctance to acknowledge in so formal a manner, the right of the British Government, to direct His Highness's judgment in the choice of a minister; or from a notion that such a step would be contrary to custom and Punctilio, to both of which His Highness pays great regard. However, I did not reagitate the subject till the 4th of January when I sent the Mowlvee to His Highness to enquire whether he has made up his mind respecting the terms in which the letter was to be written, and when he intended to dispatch it.

15. The paper No. 3 contains a report of what passed on that occasion between the Nizam and my Mowlvee. His Highness did not express any objection to write the proposed letter, but seemed to be afraid of doing something informal and unusual. He also made Chandu Lal recapitulate in the presence of the Mowlvee the substance of the conversation which passed between them the day after Meer Allum's death respecting several arrangements for a new administration, a report of which conversation I had the honour to convey to your Lordship and he was very pointed in declaring that he was indifferent as to any particular mode of arrangement, and was only desirous that such a mode should be adopted, as might be beneficial to the mutual interests of the two states. He mentioned the names neither of Moonirul Moolk, nor of Sheyaroo Dowlah; and the object of his declaration to the Mowlwee, which immediately followed the relation of Chandu Lal's conversation was evidently to give your Lordship a choice amongst the several plans, that were suggested by the Rajah.

16. The fact is, that the Nizam from the result of his former conference with the Mowlvee and from other circumstances, was in some degree assured that we felt no particular interest respecting the nomination of Moonirul Moolk at least, that we should not urge it against His Highness's declared will. As Moonirul Moolk was present at the last conference, it could not be expected that His Highness should make any more explicit declaration of his

indifference towards that person's appointment, but his intention was evident enough, when it is considered that Moonirul Moolk's name was only classed according to his rank, in the long list of Omrahs which included almost every person of any rank or respectability at the Court.

17. There can be no doubt that Jyniatoo Nissa Begum withdrew her support from Moonirul Moolk when she discovered that it was quite out of her power to perform his promise of assisting the views of Rajah Rajendra and Chandnī Begum was certainly prevailed upon the favour of Moonirul Moolk's promotion under the supposition that it would be the best mode of securing the interests of Chandu Lal. But she detected Moonirul Moolk's attempts to injure the character of Chandu Lal in the opinion of the Nizam for His Highness spoke to her unreservedly respecting the accusations which Moonirul Moolk preferred against Chandu Lal, and the wish expressed by Juhan Parwar Begum to procure the situation of Paishkar for Rajah Roop Lall. Since that period, Chandni Begum who has more influence over the Nizam than any other of the women about him, has discontinued her support in favour of Moonirul Moolk and both this Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum have united to persuade the Nizam to make his eldest son by Chandni Begum, Wallee Ahud.

18. After the Nizam's return to the city he was engaged in preparing with his own hand the draft of a letter to your Lordship, and when he had satisfied himself upon the forms in which the letter should be written he required the attendance of my Mowlvee who accordingly waited upon His Highness on the 10th of January. I have made out a statement of the conversation which passed between them and which is reported in No. 4 of the papers attached to the present dispatch.

19. His Highness appeared to be still apprehensive of the informality of addressing the first letter to your Lordship on such a subject as the appointment of a minister. His Highness did not appear to doubt the propriety of consulting your Lordship's wishes, but hesitated merely on the mode of doing it. But the assurances made in my name by the Mowlvee, together with the arguments employed in the 5th paragraph of the report No. 4 completely satisfied His Highness, who promised to admit of no further delay in the dispatch of the letter.

20. However before the letter was sent to me, His Highness consulted his mother and Chandni Begum respecting the propriety of writing such a letter to the Governor-General. The former said that she would take the subject into her consideration and give His Highness a reply the following day. In this interval she sent to consult Rajah Rajendra who, I believe, was adverse to the measure and the Begum consequently objected to it. The Chandni Begum advised the Nizam to dispatch the letter without loss of time. In this dilemma the Nizam determined to take the opinion

of Umjudool Moolk, whose advice was so favourable to the dispatch of the letter that His Highness no longer hesitated but sent the Khureetah to me the following morning.

21. I shall do myself the honour to transmit His Highness's Khureetah to the Persian Department by this day's post.

22. I can venture to assure your Lordship that the letter which the Nizam has addressed to you is entirely of His Highness's own composition. The draft was made out in his own hand, and was sent to be copied by Rashiduddowla, the son of Ihtisamull Moolk. The first paragraph alluded to the representations made by Rajah Chandu Lal, which His Highness was so anxious should be particularly explained to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:
The 6th February 1809.

Report by Mowlvee Mir Ebn Ali, of which passed at the Durbar on the morning of the 22nd December.

I went into an interior apartment in the Mahal, where the Nizam was sitting with Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal. Zeeahool Moolk (the Arz Begee) and two servants were in attendance. At some distance there were some female servants and as there were Kanauts placed behind the Musnad, I conjecture that some of the Begums were sitting in the other side of them.

2. After I had been ordered to sit down, His Highness desired Zeeahool Moolk and the servants to retire, and he told Moonirul Moolk to approach the Musnud. After making enquiries after the Resident's health the Nizam turned towards Moonirul Moolk and directed him to mention certain circumstances to me.

3. Moonirul Moolk accordingly addressed me, and said that during the administration of Ghulam Syed Khan and Meer Abool Kasim there were many papers which required the signature of the minister, and His Highness wished to know what was to be done with similar papers at present.

4. I replied that His Highness would of course determine upon that according to his will and pleasure.

5. His Highness said no. Do you tell me what ought to be done. I ask your advice and request that you will give me your opinion without reserve.

6. I answered that His Highness's question was connected with certain circumstances which the Resident had desired me to represent to His Highness. That as these circumstances were of a delicate nature, and suited only to His Highness's ear, I begged he would permit me to communicate them to him in private. Upon this His Highness ordered Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal to retire to the furtherest end of the room. I approached the Musnud and spoke as follows.

7. The Resident is of opinion that a powerful and extensive Government requires a Minister, and that your Highness should think of some person to fill the office, which has been left vacant by the death of Meer Abool Kasim. The selection and appointment rest with your Highness, but of course the British Government has a right to expect that your Highness's choice should fall upon a person properly qualified for that important and difficult office, who is acquainted with the forms of conducting business between two powerful states, and who is disposed to contribute to the stability of that alliance which connects your Highness with the British Government. The Governor-General, who naturally feels the most lively interest in the welfare of your Highness's state, will be anxious to be made acquainted with your Highness's intentions upon this subject. The Resident participates on that anxiety and has desired me to say that he has no doubt that your Highness's choice of a successor will be such as will do credit to your wisdom and judgment.

8. The Nizam replied, there are two offices to be thought of, one that which is properly called the Diwani, and the other the Wakalat or office of foreign affairs. There are two persons, who from their services, have the strongest claims upon the state. I mean Ghulam Syed Khan and Meer Abdul Kadir. Their dependants therefore are the best entitled to my favour. Of the principal descendants of both those persons which do you think the most worthy of preference. Neither of them, I am assured are likely to become dangerous to the interests of the alliance.

9. I replied that His Highness's question was of so delicate a nature, that I did not feel myself at liberty to reply to it. But I would communicate it to the Resident and convey his reply to His Highness.

10. The Nizam said that do you think what will be the Resident's answer. I replied that I could not exactly say, as I had never heard the Resident express any opinion on the comparative merits of the persons to whom His Highness alluded.

11. The Nizam enquired what degree of confidence the Resident placed in me. I answered that on such subjects as the present, I had only to communicate to the Nizam what the Resident said and to the Resident what His Highness might say.

12. The Nizam observed, I speak to you as a friend and wish to ascertain your opinion. I replied that His Highness did me too great an honour, that I was not authorized to declare any opinion of my own upon so delicate a subject and I could not venture to step beyond my instructions. His Highness was the best judge of the relative merits of his own servants, and I was a stranger to them.

13. The Nizam said that certainly Moonirul Moolk was a man of experience and wisdom and after a short pause, His Highness added, nor is Sheyarool Moolk deficient in understanding.

14. Presently afterwards His Highness said, suppose we propose the question to both of them. I observed that I thought it quite unnecessary to propose such a question to the persons themselves. His Highness should weigh in his own mind their relative merits and pretentions and determine who was most worthy of preferment.

15. His Highness then called Moonirul Moolk to him, and said the Mowlvee tells me that the Resident proposes a minister should be appointed, who bears a good character, who is skilled in business, who is acquainted with the mutual interests of both states, and whose appointment would do me credit. This is exactly what I told you, and I desire that you will relate to the Mowlvee what passed between us on this subject.

16. Moonirul Moolk related what had passed, which coincided exactly with the report that was sent to the Resident on the 11th of the month. He afterwards went on to profess his attachment and devotion to the Nizam and his resolution to promote the prosperity of the country, and the friendship between the allied states.

17. The Nizam said that Sheyar Dowlah had applied for the office of Minister and had made similar professions to him. That he had heard Shamsool Omrah would not decline the situation and was one of the principal and most trustworthy officers under the Government. Turning round to Chandu Lal, His Highness asked, did you not mention this to me. Chandu Lal replied that he did mention the name of Shamsool Omrah with those of the other principal Omrahs at Court, but made no particular remark regarding him.

18. His Highness then said to me, you see how matters stand at present. You will communicate to the Resident all that has passed between us, and you will come to me tomorrow to let me know what he says upon the subject. I have told you without any reserve all that has passed in my mind, and I am assured the Resident will be equally unreserved with me, and will give me such advice as he thinks most conducive to my interest and the welfare of my state.

Report of the Mowlvee, of what passed at Durbar on the morning of the 23rd December 1808.

I found the Nizam in the same room, with the same persons and servants as yesterday.

2. His Highness enquired with an appearance of anxiety whether I had brought from the Resident any answer to the question which he had put to me yesterday. I replied that I would do myself the honour to represent to His Highness what I had been charged to say on that subject, if he would permit us to be quite private. His Highness immediately ordered Moonirul Moolk, Chandu Lal, and the attendants, to retire, after which, I stated that yesterday at noon I had communicated to the Resident every word that His Highness had said to me; that the Resident had taken it all down in writing and desired me to wait upon him in the evening. That in the evening I attended the Resident, who directed me to make the following reply to His Highness.

3. That the Resident was much gratified and honoured by the confidence which the Nizam reposed in him; that he would be careful to offer no opinion, which he did not believe to be for the benefit of His Highness. That His Highness's question lead to a decision upon an arrangement of peculiar delicacy and importance upon which the Resident was reluctant to offer a determinate opinion, until he had first consulted the sentiments of the Governor-General. That he was only the medium of communication between His Highness and the Governor-General and that on all occasions which admitted of a reference, it was his especial duty to consult the Governor-General and to be directed by his Lordship's instructions. That owing to the wisdom of His Highness and the merits of Chandu Lal, affairs were in so favourable a state, that no inconvenience or danger would arise from a short delay; and that the present subject demanded and admitted of the fullest deliberation. If circumstances had been such as to require an immediate decision, the Resident would have offered his advice, honestly and unreservedly, to the best of his judgment, and in consonance with those general principles, which regulate the conduct of the British Government in India. But there was no necessity for an immediate decision, and therefore, the Resident was extremely anxious to refer the subject to the wisdom of the Governor-General in Council.

4. That His Highness might be assured that the Governor-General would give the subject his most serious attention, and would offer such advice, as he, in his conscience, thought most suitable to the times, and most conducive to the honour and dignity of the Nizam, the prosperity and welfare of the country and to mutual interests of the two states. That His Highness was of course at entire liberty to choose his own servants; but where an appointment was of such essential consequence to the harmony and good understanding of both Governments and which required so much knowledge of their relative interests, it was extremely proper to obtain a knowledge of the sentiments of the Governor-General before His

Highness proceeded to confer it upon any particular person. That the Governor-General would be much pleased and flattered at so unquestionable a proof of His Highness's confidence and friendship and of His Highness's anxiety to consult the interests and wishes of the British Government. From all these considerations, the Resident seriously recommended the Nizam to suspend his determination until he had consulted the Governor-General and he thought that the most becoming and formal mode of cousulting his Lordship would be by addressing a letter to his Lordship on the subject.

5. His Highness listened with great attention to the whole of this message and said that the Resident's advice was extremely proper and judicious, and such as might be expected from his prudence, knowledge and attachment. That he entirely approved of what the Resident had recommended, and would immediately conform to it.

6. His Highness enquired which of the two persons, he had mentioned yesterday the Resident thought best qualified for the situation of Minister, and what he had said regarding the two officers of Dewan and Wakil.

7. I replied that with regard to the latter question, the Resident had expressed himself his opinion nearly in the following manner.

8. The appointment of a Vakil for the express purpose of carrying on the public intercourse with the British Resident, was well adapted to former circumstances and to the nature of the connection as it then subsisted between the two states. That it was conferred upon Meer Abool Kasim because he was particularly well versed in political knowledge and was acquainted with the forms and customs of the English at a time when they were not familiar to people at Hyderabad. But the nature of present connection which completely united the interests of the both states, no longer required such a situation, distinct from the dewani. In fact the appointment of Vakil had ceased to exist since the year 1798, from which time all business had been carried on between the Resident and the Minister. That since Captain Sydenham's arrival at Hyderabad all affairs of importance had been transacted with the Nizam in person or with the Minister, and all matters of more detail had been managed through the agency of the Moonshees of the Resident and Minister. That Captain Sydenham was desirous to continue that mode of transacting business, because he thought it the most direct, simple, certain and satisfactory to both parties. That in his opinion, therefore the Vakil, as a separate and distinct appointment was unnecessary and might be inconvenient.

9. His Highness desired that what the Resident said upon this subject was perfectly just, but he wished to know what was the Resident's opinion of the comparative merits of Moonirul Moolk and Sheyaroo Doulah.

10. I replied that I was not authorized to make any communication upon that subject, and indeed the Resident appeared reluctant to offer any opinion, that might lead His Highness to conceive that he was personally interested in the promotion of either of those persons.

11. His Highness replied that he was assured the Resident could have no other object in view than the real interests of the state; that he was desirous to ascertain the Resident's private opinion of those persons, and requested with much earnestness that I would give him some general notion of the Resident's sentiments on that subject.

12. I then observed that without entering into a particular comparison of their merits, the Resident had remarked that Sheyaroo Dowlah was still young and perfectly inexperienced in public business, and that never having conversed with Sheyaroo Dowla it was impossible for the Resident to judge how far he was qualified for the highest office in the state. Moonirul Moolk was more advanced in years, and had been in some degree accustomed to business and that being well known to the Resident, he would naturally feel more confidence in transacting business with Moonirul Moolk than with a perfect stranger.

13. His Highness assented to the justice of this remark, and terminated the conversation by saying that he would reflect upon the terms in which he should write to the Governor-General; that being a subject of great delicacy and importance it required deliberation; but that the Resident might in the mean time, be assured that His Highness would take no step without the previous advice of the Resident.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Report of Mowlvee Meer Ebn Ali, of what passed when he waited on the Nizam at Umberpeth the 4th of January.

1. I went to an open verandah on the outside of the garden wall, where I found Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandulal. After waiting a short time we were summoned to attend the Nizam, whom we found in a small tent within the garden.

2. Rajah Chandulal represented to His Highness that the family of Mahipat Ram had arrived at the Tarbund near the city and that he thought they had better come to the Foundry on the north side of the river, to be delivered over to the officer who was to escort them to Benares. His Highness replied that it would be very proper and then addressing himself to me, made many enquiries of the city of Benares and the river Ganges.

3. After speaking upon these and other indifferent subjects, His Highness enquired what I had to say to him. I answered that I was desired by the Resident to put His Highness in mind of the

letter which His Highness had consented to write to the Governor-General respecting the appointment of a successor to Meer Allum. That the Resident thought the subject too important to be dropped, and if His Highness still intended to write to the Governor-General upon it the sooner the letter was prepared and dispatched the better.

4. His Highness said that he admitted the propriety of the Resident's advice, and would follow it, but that on a former occasion no such letter had been written by him to Lord Wellesley on the contrary his Lordship had first written a letter to His Highness respecting the appointment of a successor to Ghulam Syed Khan, and therefore His Highness was afraid of doing any thing, on the present occasion, which might be thought informal or unusual.

5. I replied that different circumstances required a different measures; that there would be nothing improper or informal in His Highness's writing a letter to consult the Governor-General, respecting an arrangement, which was of such material consequence to both states. On the contrary the Governor-General would be much pleased with His Highness for having shown so much solicitude to obtain his advice before he proceeded to make any appointment, and it was with this view that the Resident had recommended the measure to His Highness's notice.

6. His Highness then said, I may write this letter without any future evil consequences. I replied assuredly.

7. After some further conversation His Highness said I shall remain in the country for a few days longer, and visit the shrine of Mowlah Ali; after which I shall return to my palace in the city and write an appropriate letter to the Governor-General.

8. His Highness then told me that Rajah Chandulal had represented some circumstances for the good of the state, which I must listen to and relate to the Resident, in order that the Resident might communicate them to the Governor-General. Accordingly Chandu Lal mentioned the several arrangements which he had proposed to the Nizam, on the day after Meer Allum's death. When Chandu Lal had concluded, the Nizam said to me "tell the Resident to write all these circumstances fully to the Governor-General. All that I require is that the affairs of Government should be properly conducted, that my subjects should enjoy peace and security, that I should not be troubled with complaints, and that my alliance with the British Government should not be disturbed. Provided these objects be attained I do not care who is the Minister." Shortly after this we all retired.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Report by Mowlvee Meer Ebn Ali of what passed at the Durbar on the 10th January.

I went to the palace and found Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lall waiting in the Dewan Khana. I joined them and after my arrival had been made known to the Nizam, an Aseel came to us, and said that His Highness still felt some doubts, upon the propriety of dispatching the letter to the Governor-General and was desirous to consult me once more upon that subject. I told the Aseel that if His Highness would honour me with a private audience, I hoped to be able to remove all doubts from his mind. When the Aseel communicated this message to the Nizam, His Highness directed us to attend him.

His Highness repeated the same observations which he had made at Umbarpeth and said he was afraid of doing any thing that was unusual, particularly as on a former occasion, precisely similar the Governor-General had addressed the first letter to him.

I said every thing that occurred to me likely to remove those doubts from His Highness's mind and assured him that the Governor-General could feel nothing but gratified at His Highness's anxiety to consult him on an arrangement of so much importance to the interests of both states.

His Highness replied that he was fully aware of the propriety of consulting the Governor-General. He was only in doubt as to the proper mode of consulting the Governor-General, whether by a letter to his Lordship or by a message through the Resident.

I replied that the effect of both was the same, but the Resident thought it more suitable to the importance of the occasion that His Highness should himself consult the Governor-General in a letter written expressly for that purpose. It was both a more formal and more complimentary way than the communication of a mere message through the Resident.

This remark appeared to satisfy the Nizam, and he observed that he could place implicit confidence in the rectitude of the Resident's judgment. He added that he would lose no time in preparing the Khureetah and in sending it to the Resident for transmission to Calcutta.

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL.

Letter No. 17.—It is a covering note to a copy of his address to the Vice-President in Council, dated 2nd July 1811. In this address he describes the strange conduct of the Nizam and his demand of accounts of money from Raja Chandu Lal, the Peshkar. The details of the court intrigues and lady's influence are also described.

From—HENERY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

To—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 16th July 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my despatch No. 4 to the honourable the vice-president.

To—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT.-GENERAL HEWETT,
VICE-PRESIDENT. FORT WILLIAM.

HONOURABLE SIR,

I am sorry to acquaint your Excellency, that the Nizam has within these few days renewed his altercation with Rajah Chandu Lal about his accounts, and has behaved with great folly, violence and indecency.

2. I stated to your Excellency in the 5th paragraph of my address No. 2, dated the 21st of May that the Nizam had directed that all matters of business might be referred to him through Moonirul Moolk's niece Juhan Parwar Begum. Since that time the Nizam has generally given his orders to her in the first instance, and she has conveyed them to the person to whom they related. The paper in the Nizam's hand-writting requiring Rajah Chandu Lal to refund the amount pretended to be due by him to the Government, was sent by the Begum to Moonirul Moolk and delivered by him to the Rajah.

3. A few evenings ago, the Nizam asked Juhan Purwar Begum whether Rajah Chandulal had yet paid the money he had directed her to demand of him. The Begum said that the Rajah had neither paid the money, nor appeared as if he intended to do so. "What" said the Nizam, "he has not refused to pay it to you, has he"? "Yes he has" replied the Begum "and I have failed in every attempt I have made to get from him". "Then I will get it from him myself" said the Nizam. The Begum said very artfully that she had doubted whether the Nizam would be able to get money that she had tried every means in her power, but that the Rajah seemed obstinately resolved not to pay it to any body. "But I will get it though" exclaimed the Nizam "as you shall see I have tried mild measures without success. I will now try other. If he will not pay the money by fair means I will take care that he shall pay it by foul".

4. The next morning soon after Chandulal and Munirul Moolk's arrival at the Durbar, the Nizam, who was as usual in the inner apartments of the palace, sent out Sahir Ali Khan to the Rajah to desire that he would discharge the balance due to him to the Sirkar. The Rajah replied he really did not know what balance his Highness meant. He had rendered his account faithfully, and so far from there appearing to be any balance against him the expenses considerably exceeded the receipts. If his Highness thought there was any error in the accounts, the Rajah entreated he would be pleased to point it out. The Nizam then sent an absurd statement to the Rajah, estimating the Revenues of a great part of the country by the Kaumil instead of the Woosool* inserting many districts which had been granted out in Jagheer. taking credit for the Choute collected by the Peshwa's officers' and

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*The Kaumil is the nominal amount of revenue of each district of village according to a statement prepared when the Deccan belonged to the Kings of Delhi. The woosool is the real amount now collected. The woosool generally varies from ¼ to ¾ of the Kaumil. In a very few particular instances it equals it.

for a large portion of the secunnee or minister's fees, and exhibiting a balance of about four crores of Rupees against the Rajah. Chandulal in his answer very patiently and respectfully explained the fallacy of this statement; he said he was afraid His Highness might not have accurately understood the different parts of the intricate and voluminous accounts he had submitted to him, and earnestly entreated that he might not be denied the privilege of waiting on His Highness to explain them to him in person. To this the Nizam sent a very foolish though a very characteristic reply. "What do you mean" said he "by insinuating that I do not understand your accounts. I do understand them perfectly. I have examined them with great attention. Bunnee Begum too has seen them. Sahir Ali Khan has seen them. And will you pretend to say that they do not understand accounts? Pay the money immediately or I will take measures to make you pay it". Bunnee Begum is a writer in the service of Juhan Parwar Begum, and Sahir Ali Khan is one of the mirdates of Choubdars. The Rajah again sent word to the Nizam that he was deeply concerned he could not prevail upon His Higness to see him, and that nothing he had urged could produce any effect upon His Highness's mind; he had already said every thing he had to say, and it would be disrespectful in him to persevere in merely repeating it. If the money His Highness required from him was demanded according to any account, he entreated that the account might be submitted to a fair examination. If it was demanded without any reference to accounts, all that he could say was, that the whole of his property even his life belonged to the Nizam, and might be taken from him at any time His Highness chose to require them ; he was conscious in his own breast of having performed the part of an honest, faithful servant and was at all times prepared to lose his property as he gained it, and to end his life as he had passed it, in the service of his master. This temperate respectful appeal however was entirely thrown away upon the Nizam. He said "It was money and not fine words he wanted and that it was of no use therefore to amuse him with empty talking. It seemed that Sahir Ali Khan through whom all the messages were conveyed backwards and forwards, was not able to get the money from Chandu lal and that he would therefore employ some other servant who would be both able and willing to get it too." The Rajah still continued to remonstrate patiently and temperately but he could get no other answer from the Nizam than merely "Bring the money, bring the money (Paise Lao paise Lao) which the Nizam towards the close of the day repeated over and over again, with the most absurd and stupid obstinacy. At last at about eleven 11 O' clock at night, the Rajah being quite exhausted with anxiety, fatigue, and want of sustenance and finding that no impression was to be made upon the Nizam, sent in word that he had not eaten any thing since the morning and was very much tired, and with His Highness's permission therefore would then go home. The Nizam desired him to go, and return to the palace early the next morning and at the same time he sent a message to Munirool Moolk, which was delivered in the open desiring him to depute officers of his own to assume charge of the country and to appoint Mootusuddies to take charge of the different departments here. To this message Moonirul Moolk made no answer. He had been present with the Rajah at the Durbar all day but had not taken any active share in the discussion that was going on. It was near mid-night when Moonirul Moolk and the Rajah left the palace.

5. This took place on the 28th ultimo. On the 29th the Rajah went to the Durbar at an early hour. Moonirul Moolk was there. The Nizam was asleep . When he got up , Chandulal desired Sahir Ali Khan would take in a message from him, saying he anxiously hoped His Highness would be pleased to admit him to an audience, and to listen to the explanation he was desirous of affording on the subject of his accounts. Sahir Ali Khan refused to take in the message, because he was not on duty that day; and the Choubdar who was on duty said he would not take it in, because the subject of it belonged to Tahir Ali Khan. The Nizam has of late been so violent in his behaviour that even his own menial servants are afraid to approach him. Chandulal could not prevail upon any body to take a message in to the Nizam and the Nizam sent no message out to either him or Moonirul Moolk. At last, at about one O'clock Moonirul Moolk said that he would send in a Sirnama of his own, with a message to his niece Juhan Parwar Begum which he did and received for answer from her that Nizam had said nothing more about the accounts, and that she did not dare to speak to him about them, until he could tell him that the money had been paid; that she imagined, unless the Nizam gave any orders to the contrary, Moonirul Moolk and Chandulal might go home at the usual hour, and the servant was going on with the answer, when Moonirul Moolk stopped him saying "very well, very well, I understand, " and then turning to the Rajah, said he believed they had better go home, which they did immediately.

6. I called on Rajah Chandulal directly he returned from the palace. He repeated to me every thing that had passed between himself and the Nizam the day before, and told he was quite distracted with the difficulties of his situation, and realy knew not either what to do or what to expect. He imputed all his embarrassments to Moonirul Moolk's intrigues. He said he still thought notwithstanding all that had passed that the Nizam had no personal dislike of him at bottom, at least that he liked him as well as he liked any body else about the Durbar, and that the only personal interest the Nizam felt on the present occasion was the desire of extorting money from him. In every other respect, he was persuaded the Nizam was a mere tool in the hands of Moonirul Moolk and his associates.

7. I said every thing I could to encourage and animate the Rajah and assured him that he had nothing to apprehend. I had already told him he should have my zealous support whenever it became necessary and I was now prepared to give it to him firmly and decidedly. The Rajah expressed himself in terms of great gratitude to the British Government for the consideration they had for him, and said he now feared it would become absolutely necessary for him to appeal to me for assistance, but that for his own sake, he wished to defer calling in my active interposition as long as he thought there was any chance, left of his being able to do without it. I told the Rajah that I should be guided very much by his opinion regarding the time at which I should interfere between him and the Nizam; and as he evidently wished that I should wait a little longer, it was determined that the Rajah should go to the Durbar again as usual the next day ; if the Nizam would listen to him, he was to endeavour to obtain an audience, and bring him to reason, but if the Nizam persisted in his violence and either enforced his orders to Moonirul Moolk, or attempted any other decided step against Chandulal, the Rajah was to remonstrate in a written Arzee and upon that proving ineffectual, as in all probability it would, I was myself to demand an audience of the Nizam, and act as his temper and disposition of mind might appear to make most desirable for diverting him from his present disgraceful line of conduct. My visiting Chandulal at such a time would of itself show, that (unless) we interested ourselves in his favour, and might perhaps in some degree deter the Nizam from continuing to act against him, especially if he had been encouraged in any part of his late conduct by a supposition, that we would not interfere for the Rajah's support.

8. The next morning which was the 30th and yesterday, Rajah Chandulal went to the Durbar as usual. The Nizam was in his female apartment. He remained at the palace the whole of the morning both days, but receiving no communication of any kind from the Nizam both he and Moonirul Moolk returned to their own houses at the usual hour.

9. I have not thought it necessary to trouble your Excellency with any tedious detail of the objections raised against Rajah Chandulal's accounts. The extravagant sum demanded by the Nizam and the method in which he has conducted his enquiry are of themselves amply sufficient to stamp a character of fiction upon the whole proceeding.

10. It will be satisfactory to your Excellency to hear that Chandulal in his present difficulties, carries with him not only the esteem of all the Omra of any rank or respectability and of———of the Begums in the Mahal except Munirul Moolk's niece, but also the cordial good will of the whole community. Umzadul Moolk, Shumsul Omrah, Shah Yarool Moolk, Zeeaool Moolk, and Ihtisamool Moolk, the only persons of any real consequence now left at Hyderabad, are all decidedly attached to the Rajah's cause. His office as Peshkar of the Pagah Party connects him particularly with

Umzadul Moolk and Shamsul Omrah. In the Mahal Chandni Begum, the Nizam's favourite wife, has always been his peculiar patronness. The Bukshee Begum's Jagheers have long been entrusted to his brother Govind Buksh, and a part of Jyniatoon Nissa Begum's Jagheers are in the charge of one of his servants. They have all expressed themselves to the indignity to which every body is liable, who approaches the Nizam in the paroxysms of his anger. Among the ladies of the Mahal Bukshi Begum has long ceased to take any active part in the concerns of the Government and even the Nizam's own mother and his favourite wife are now afraid to speak to him. Umzadul Moolk has ceased to attend the Durbar for some time past. Ihtisamul Moolk is very seldom there. Shamsul Omrah and Shah Yarool Moolk are generally on duty at the palace, but they rarely see the Nizam, and they are at any rate both of them too young to offer any opinion to him. Zeeaool Mulk from his office of Arazbegee, is always in attendance but the Nizam hardly ever sends for him. Now, and on the present occasion he has paid him the compliment of not conveying any of his indecent messages to the Rajah through him.

11. The prevalent opinion openly expressed of the Nizam, even by the members of his own family is, that he is insecure and his present violence is imputed to his not having been bled as usual during the hot weather. He desired his physicians to bleed him some time ago, but the operation from some accident was unsuccessful, and it has not been attempted since. The whole tenour of the Nizam's recent conduct certainly seems to justify this opinion, though I forbear from relating in an official address any of the ludicrous proofs he frequently exhibits of his degrading and unhappy calamity. For some time past he has ceased to trust any body to cook his victuals for him, and now eats nothing but what is dressed by his own hands. He never appears in public, and never pays any attention to the concerns of his Government. He generally eats in a sullen melancholy silence in his female apartment and if he does admit any body to his presence, it is either his menial servants or his foster brothers, or Izzat Yar Khan and Sikandar Yar Jang, the two persons mentioned in the 15th paragraph of my last address to your Excellency. It is the original misfortune of the Nizam's disposition, and the source of the errors of his life, that he is uneasy in the society of the only persons who are fit companions for his rank, and who could inspire him with a recollection of what he owes to his people and to himself.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
HENRY RUSSELL,
Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:
July 2nd, 1811.

Letter No. 18.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Russell's address to the Vice-President in Council, dated the 15th July 1811. In this address Russell points out what the revenues of the state were in 1803-04, what Chandulal's relations with the British Resident and what Chandulal had planned to win back the Nizam's confidence.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 27th July 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 5 to His Excellency the Vice-President.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT.-GENERAL HEWETT, FORT WILLIAM.

HONOURABLE SIR,

I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's commands conveyed to me in the Chief Secretry's dispatch of the 21st ultimo.

2. It is very gratifying to me to find that the report contained in my address No. 2 on the 21st of May had proved satisfactory to your Excellency and that your Excellency had been pleased to approve of the advice I had given to Rajah Chandu Lal. In the event of its becoming necessary for me to exert my influence for the Rajah's protection the delivery of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's letter on the 20th September to His Highness the Nizam, and Moonirul Moolk will still probably be attended with the same beneficial consequences that they were originally intended to produce. I have already thought it right as a measure of precaution to communicate copies of these letters confidentially to Rajah Chandu Lal.

3. For some days after the date of my last address to your Excellency no further discussion took place about the Rajah's accounts. The Rajah went to the Durbar every morning and stayed there until the usual hour but the Nizam neither appeared himself in the public apartments of the palace, nor sent any messages to the Rajah.

4. On the morning of the 7th however Munirul Moolk told Chandulal that Juhan Parwar Begum had sent to him by the Nizam's desire for a written explanation of the statement made out under the Nizam's inspection and communicated to the Rajah on the 28th of last month. The Rajah had taken the precaution to prepare the explanation now called for and immediately sent it to the Nizam. The article explaining the item of Jagheers in the Nizam's statement was the only one on which His Highness made any remark. He asked why so much of his country had been

granted away without his knowledge or authority. The Rajah replied, that that was a question out of his power to answer. None of the Jagheer referred to in the statement having been granted by him, but having all been conferred during Meer Allum's administration when the accounts of the country were kept by Sooraj Want, and Mahipat Ram. The Nizam said "they were traitors (Nimak Haram), You must not follow their example. For the future, let the charges be reduced to the amount at which they stood in 1213, Faslee 1803-04 by which means a balance of revenue will always be left to me at the end of the year." The charges for 1803-04 were Rupees 1,40,15,337 the receipt for last year were Rupees 1,85,97,340. The Rajah thought it prudent in the present temper of the Nizam's mind, to avoid entering into any argument with him, about the practicability of keeping the charges, stationery when the extent of the country had increased and he therefore sent for answer to the Nizam's message merely that he would turn the subject over in his mind, and endeavour to make as large a reduction as he possibly could in the expense of the Government.

5. This is the only occasion on which any thing has lately passed. The tone of the Nizam's messages, was rather kind to the Rajah than otherwise, and he has taken two or three opportunities since of showing a favourable disposition towards him. He has desired the Rajah to appoint a servant of his own to superintend a house His Highness is now building within the enclosure of his palace, and a report having gone abroad, that the Rajah's enemies intended to incite some ruffians to assasinate him the Nizam sent messages a few days ago to both Shamshul Omrah and Umjadul Moolk desiring that they would give orders to the Pagah troops to be particularly careful of the Rajah's person.

6. I have all along had reason to suspect that one of the means Munir Ool Mulk and his agents made use of to encourage the Nizam in his measures against Chandu Lal was the assuring him that the examination of the Rajah's accounts was a matter belonging exclusively to His Highness's domestic policy, and one therefore, in which the British Government could have no pretext for interfering, and reports where very industriously circulated through the city that the Rajah had earnestly and repeatedly appealed to me for assistance but that I had peremptorily refused to give it to him. The scene of one of these appeals was laid at Munirul Moolk's house, where it was said, that on the day I visited him, the Rajah had thrown himself at my feet in Munirool Moolk's presence and implored my assistance as the only possible means of intricating him from his difficultuies and that I had told the Rajah in reply "I was exceedingly sorry for the embarrassment he was involved into but that I had no authority to interfere in any of the internal arrangements of the Nizam's Government and that in the present instance, His Highness's pleasure must take its course."

7. It is probable therefore that the Nizam understood my sudden visit to Chandulal on the 29th ultimo in the sense in which I meant he should understand it and that he has changed his conduct from discovering that the Rajah will have my support, if he should stand in need of it. I have since paid another visit to the Rajah, which seems to have produced the best effects in encouraging the Rajah himself and repressing the hopes and activity of his enemies.

8. The Rajah is now endeavouring to obtain an audience of the Nizam at which he means to try to remove any doubts His Highness may still pretend to entertain of the correctness of his accounts and to conciliate him by assurances of a faithful attachment to his person and Government and by professing the most sincere devotion to the interests of his service. The Rajah's manners are very mild and insinuating and he is so well acquainted with the peculiarities of the Nizam's temper, that if he can but get personal access to him, I am in great hopes he will succeed in effecting a reconciliation.

9. The Rajah has abandoned the design of purchasing the Nizam's favour by the offer of a large sum of money and he has now devised a plan, which does not seem to be liable to the same objections for making a permanent increase to the monthly sum paid to the Nizam for the support of his household. The good effects of this measure will be lasting instead of temporary, and will give the Rajah a permanent hold upon the Nizam's mind by authorizing the declaration that it will not be without the greatest difficulty the Rajah will be able to make the increase the projects, and that it will be absolutely impracticable for him either to accomplish or continue it, without His Highness's unlimited confidence and support.

10. The Rajah also intends to endeavour to make some reduction in the charges of the Government a measure which if it is cautiously planned and steadily maintained, will certainly be attended with the most important and beneficial consequences. I fear however that this design is rather specious than practicable.

11. Rajah Chandu Lal attaches great importance to the object of conciliating the Nizam by his own efforts alone. It being generally known that he will have our support if he should be driven to require it will of itself give him considerable weight. It may possibly deter the Nizam from taking any decided steps against him, and will at least make Munirul Moolk cautious in the prosecution of his intrigues. But the active exertions of our influence in his favour would confirm his enemies in one of the chief advantages they have over him in their insinuations to the Nizam, it would at

once deprive him of the personal regard he thinks the Nizam still has for him and would in all probabilities make His Highness decidedly and irreconcilably his enemy.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
H. RUSSELL,
Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:
The 15th July 1811.

Letter No. 19.—The enclosure No. 1 to this forwarding note is very important. It is a copy of Russell's address to the Vice-President in Council, dated 9th September 1811. In this Russell describes at some length the suspicions, jealousy, pettiness and resentment of the Nizam towards Chandulal and the British Resident inpsired by the machination of Muniirul Mulk. He mentions some of the most capricious, senseless and even ferocious acts of the Nizam in his daily life which indicated a perverse mind. The refusal of the Nizam at first to grant an interview to the Resident who wanted to present the Shookka of the Mughal Emperor meant for the Nizam, how ultimately he agreed to grant an interview, and what was responsible for these freaks and turns of his temper are clearly described. Munir ul Mulk's superstitions faith in astrology, his secret insinuations and messages sent to the Nizam, designed to overthrow Chandulal and his definitely hostile motives against the British are explained in detail.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 20th September 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my dispatch No. 6 to His Excellency the Vice-President.

No. 1

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT.-GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,

Since the date of my last address to your Excellency, the Nizam has not in any shape renewed the altercation, about Chandu Lal's accounts and I hope therefore, that the subject is now finally disposed of. But His Highness has still continued to confine himself entirely to his female apartments, and has refused to receive either the Ministers, or any of the Omrahs.

2. On one occasion however Rajah Chandu Lal contrived to get across to him. He then received the Rajah very kindly, and both his manner and his language were unusually gracious. He listened with great complacency to the Rajah's professions of duty and attachment and assured him, that he possessed his undiminished confidence and esteem. The Nizam did not allude in any way to the subject of the Rajah's accounts but the Rajah himself told him that he intended to make every effort in his power to reduce the expenses of the Government, and that he hoped with His Highness's countenance and support to enable to increase the sum received by him for the charges of his personal establishment to Ten Lacks of Rupees a year. He also submitted to the Nizam the plan of some financial arrangement he proposed to adopt, to which His Highness gave an immediate assent. The Rajah appeared at the time to be perfectly satisfied with the result of the interview.

3. I lately received from the Resident at Delhi a Shookha from the king, in answer to an Arzdasht which was written by the Nizam a considerable time ago and as I had not had any opportunity of meeting the Nizam since the first visit I paid him on my arrival here, I availed myself of that plea, as soon as the Rajah had seen him, to request that he would grant me an audience. I hoped that my seeing the Nizam might contribute to confirm the effects of the Rajah's interview with him. I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of the note I addressed on the occasion to Rajah Chandu Lal.

4. I always thought it not unlikely that the Nizam would still endeavour to get rid of the ceremony of the embrace, notwithstanding the explicit declaration he authorized Rajah Chandulal to give me, that he would observe it on all occasions; though I certainly was not prepared for any thing like a resistance on his part against receiving me at all; nor could I imagine that the suspicions would be alarmed by the mere circumstance of my wishing to deliver a Shookka to him in answer to an Arzdasht from himself. But your Excellency will perceive that there is unfortunately no instance in which the Nizam may not be instigated to resistance, and no circumstance so frivolous as not to excite suspicion in his weak perverted mind.

5. The Rajah being unable to get access to the Nizam, sent my note in to him with a message from himself requesting that His Highness would be pleased to fix a day to receive me. When the Nizam had read my note he desired the subject of it might be mentioned to Shah Yarool Moolk. Neither the Rajah nor Shah Yarool Moolk could tell what the Nizam meant by this desire, nor probably could he have told himself but the Rajah thought it best to comply with it. Shah Yarool Moolk requested the Rajah would say any thing he thought proper in his name to the Nizam, and

at the same time he sent message to me mentioning what had occurred. One of the Juhan Parwar Begum's Asseels then went to the Rajah to ask what was the reason of my wanting to see the Nizam. The Rajah replied, that I had received a Shookka for His Highness from the king and I wished to present to him. I know nothing about the king, said the Nizam. Who is he? What has he got to write to me about? Who brought his Shookka here? How did it come? Did it fly?" The Rajah said, that the Shookka he believed was in answer to an Arzdusht which His Highness had addressed to the king, a considerable time ago, thanking him for the titles His Majesty had been pleased to confer upon him, and that it had been forwarded to me by the Resident at Delhi. The Nizam said, he knew nothing at all about the matter and desired the Rajah to refer to Meer Allum. The Rajah reminded His Highness very respectfully that Meer Allum had been dead three years; but that the former Shookka from the king and the copies of His Highness's Arzdushts were in the Moonshy's Office, and could be produced immediately if His Highness wished to see them. The Nizam saw that although Meer Allum himself was dead, many of the members of his family were living, to whom the Shookka might be delivered much more properly than to him. But he desired, that the papers mentioned by the Rajah might be sent to him.

6. The next morning the Rajah took those papers to the palace, and sent them in to the Nizam, who pretended to forget all that had passed the day before, and asked, what the papers were about and why he was troubled with them. The Rajah told the Nizam, that the papers had been sent to him by his own express desire, and as soon as he had read them requested His Highness would fix a day for granting me an audience. The Nizam was astonished at the Rajah's requiring him to receive me after giving him a formal release, under his seal and signature, declaring that no transactions remained unsettled (alluding probably to the circumstance mentioned on the 3rd paragraph of Lt.-Col. Russell's address to the Governor-General dated the 14th June 1810). The Rajah said he was not aware that any transaction did remain unsettled; that I merely wished to pay a visit to His Highness; and that nothing surely could be more easy then for His Highness to receive me, and entertain me in the usual manner for half an hour. The Nizam said it might perhaps appear very easy to the Rajah, but it was by no means so to him, it weighed upon him like a stone. Ghulam Syed Khan, and Meer Abdul Kasim never troubled him in this way; they did every thing that was to be done at their own houses; and left him, as he wished to be left, entirely to himself. The Rajah replied that all the duties which belonged to the Minister he discharged, as his predecessors had done, but that there were certain acts which could be performed by His Highness alone, and that the giving audience to the Resident was one of them. "I have no objection" said the Nizam, "to give audience to the Resident, when there is any real necessity for it: but it is quite impossible that he can have any

thing to say to me now; how should he? He has got no money of mine, and I am sure I have got none of his". The Rajah answered that all this was very true; but that I had applied for an audience, and it must be granted to me; that in a former instance His Highness had declared, that he would unconditionally receive the Resident upon all occasions, and that His Highness's objecting to do so now would inevitably lead to very serious and painful discussions. "I know nothing" said the Nizam "about the declaration you speak of, or about the Resident's right to have an audience; every thing that was said or done before, was by Meer Allum; why cannot you do as he did? You are the Minister, and conduct all the business; you write my letters, and seal them for me; you issue orders, manage the country, and collect the Revenues; why therefore cannot you receive the Resident too? And have me entirely to myself. I am a poor man (Garib Admee) and live quite secluded. I keep a few female servants, and have few pots and pans to cook my victuals. I do not trouble my head about any other man's business and do not wish any other man to trouble his head about mine."

7. The whole of this absurd discussion was conducted by the Nizam with the most indecent violence; and the emotions which prevailed in the Durbar, where the Nizam's messages were delivered aloud to the Rajah, seemed to be alternately of pity, laughter and disgust. For several days afterwards the Nizam shut himself up entirely in his own apartment, and he occasionally betrayed such violence of passion, that the servants of the palace were afraid to approach him. During the last few months, indeed, he has shown a ferocity of disposition, which, admidst all his extravagancies never appeared in him before. He lately had one of his female servants tied by the hands and feet to four wooden pegs driven into the ground, for no greater offence than a mistake in the method of boiling some eggs, and after keeping her in that situation for several days, he had her beaten until she actually expired in his presence. About a fortnight ago he had another of his female servants so unhumanly beaten for some equally trifling offence, that she died in a few hours; and a day now hardly passes without his exercising some cruelty towards his women which makes his character as odious, as it is contemptible. The impression which this conduct has occasioned may easily be imagined. Those pesrons who are able to get away from the Nizam, are naturally eager to do so, and nothing I am told can exceed the misery of those whose situations unavoidably expose them to the paroxyms of his rage. Both the Bukshi Begum and the Jyniatoo Nissa Begum left the palace in disgust about six weeks ago and are now living at a village of Jyniatoo Nissa Begum's about six miles from the city. They had for some time been upon bad terms with the Nizam in consequence of the violence and indecency of his conduct.

8. At length after waiting nearly a week Rajah Chandu Lal sent an Arzee to the Nizam, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation. I hope your Excellency will think the

style of this Arzee sufficiently respectful. It was originally expressed with such timidity and abjectness as seem in to me to be calculated to encourage the Nizam in his opposition, and I had some difficulty in prevailing on the Rajah to omit the phrase "I approach your Highness with fear and trembling (lurzar o tursan)". The want of personal firmness is a great defect of Chandu Lall's public character. Both Azimul Omrah, and Meer Allum were able by their own efforts to promote in some degree the success of the measures which we adopted for their support. The Nizam feared, though he hated them but Chandu Lal can give no assistance. We have to support him against his own fears, as well as against the opposition of the Nizam; and the means of attaining our object are therefore lessened as the difficulty of it is increased.

9. When the Rajah's Arzee was delivered to the Nizam, he flew into a violent passion, and asked the Aseel who brought it, how she dared give such a paper to him. He sent a message to the Rajah saying, that he had hoped, there had been an end of the subject, that it was not possible I should have any thing to say to him, that as to the Firman he had already desired it might be delivered to Meer Allum's family, who must know more about it then he did, and that if I had any other business I might go to Meer Allum or Chandu Lal. The Rajah replied that the Resident called on His Highness as the representatives of the Government which was His Highness's best friend, and that when he had called formerly on Meer Allum or now upon the Rajah himself, it was a distinction they owed exclusively to the offices which His Highness had done them the honour to confide to them; that the apprehensions His Highness appeared to entertain were unfounded and unjust; and that His Highness ought not to consider those men as his friends who had taken pains to inspire him with them, that all ordinary business was conducted by the Resident with the Minister, but that in those cases where the Resident found that the Minister's Representations were not attended to by His Highness, of course he would be obliged to address himself directly to His Highness in person.

10. The tone of this message so much more spirited than that which is generally adopted by the Rajah seemed to produce some good effect upon the Nizam. He said very well, if that is the case, I have no objection to see Mr. Rusell. I will receive him at a time. But what is this paper which he has brought from the king. What have I to do with it? If it belongs to anybody, surely it is to him who wrote the letter to which it is said to be answer, it was Meer Allum and not I who wrote that letter, and it is to him therefore, and not to me that it ought to have been sent. If he is dead let it be delivered to his family.

11. The Shookka from the king became a matter of mere form it would have———nothing originally whether I delivered it to the Nizam or to his Minister but as I had formally announced

my intention of delivering it to the Nizam in person, and as I had indeed made it the plea on which I applied for an audience it appeared to me that it would be improper to give any sort of countenance to the Nizam's discreditable suspicions, or to submit to any thing like a condition of his granting me an audience, by consenting to suppress the Shookka or receiving in any respect from the ground I had originally taken Rajah Chandu Lal tried to divert me from this resolution and urged me very strongly to concede the point of delivering the Shookka to the Nizam. But when he found that I was not to be moved, he prepared another Arzee which he endeavoured to get delivered to the Nizam. All the servants of the palace however said, that after what had passed they did not dare to approach the Nizam upon the subject, and they absolutely refused to take charge of the Rajah's Arzee. It then became absolutely necessary for me to apply directly to the Nizam, myself and I therefore addressed a letter to His Highness of which I have honour to enclose a copy and translation.

12. The Nizam expressed a good deal of anger and surprize, when my letter was delivered to him, and asked the Rajah, why he had not settled the business without making it necessary for me to write to His Highness. The Rajah said, that he had done every thing in his power and that two days before he had addressed an Arzee to His Highness telling him so, but could not get it delivered to His Highness. The Nizam sent for this Arzee and after reading it asked the Rajah if the object of my visit related to him, if it did, in what way and if it did not, why he interposed so warmly about it. And he then ran into very much the same sort foolish, unmeaning altercation he had gone into before. He said I know nothing at all about the Farman. The Arzdasht to the king was written when Meer Allum was Minister, and Captain Sydenham Resident. One of them is dead, and the other is gone away; is not all their business therefore dead and gone with them. If Mr. Russell comes to the Durbar what will he say to me, and what answer shall I give him? But at last, the Rajah with a great deal of difficulty prevailed upon the Nizam to consent to his addressing a Note to me, which I received at about 3 O'clock in the morning.

13. As the Nizam chose to disavow the real cause of the delay and to abstain from imposing any condition upon my having an audience, I determined to accept the explanation contained in the Rajah's note and I accordingly sent an answer to it. of the terms of which I hope your Excellency will be pleased to approve. In the course of the afternoon I received a letter from the Nizam himself, appointing the next morning to receive me.

14. Mooneerool Moolk was present at all these discussions at the Durbar but he took no part in them whatever.

15. I am almost ashamed to have taken up so much of your Excellency's time and to have so much violated the gravity of official correspondence, by detailing all the ludicrous absurdities

of the Nizam's language, but I do not know in what other manner an accurate notion of it can be given, it may be repeated, but it cannot be described. I am anxious also to give your Excellency the most ample means of judging what must be the condition of a Government, where the prince and his Ministers are entirely occupied for whole days together with such frivolous unmeaning altercations.

16. A few hours after the Nizam's letter reached me, I received from the Rajah a paper which he said the Nizam had just sent to him, with a requisition that he would sign it. He told me that he should do every thing he could to evade the Nizam's desire, and that at all events he would endeavour to satisfy his mind without connecting himself in such a way, as to occasion any embarrassment hereafter.

17. I went to the palace on the morning of the 7th and was received by Munirool Moolk, and Rajah Chandu Lal, in the public hall of audience. They both of them mentioned the paper, which the Rajah had sent to me the evening before, and the Rajah told me, that he had been able to avoid giving any written declaration to the Nizam. We were soon sent for by His Highness whom I found in an inner apartment, standing to receive me. He embraced me without any hesitation, and seated me as usual by the side of his Musnud. The expression on of his countenance was uncommonly melancholy; and though it was not five months since I had seen him, I observed that a very remarkable change for the worse had taken place in his appearance. He hardly spoke at all; but his tone, in the few words he did say, was more that of dipression than of anger. He seemed to be rather out of spirits, than out of humour. As soon as the Nizam had replied to the enquiries I made after his health, I told him that I had received from the Resident at Delhi a Shookka in answer to an Arzdasht His Highness had addressed to the king some time ago, and I then rose, and presented it to him. The Nizam received it from my hand, and without saying a word gave it unopened to Munirool Moolk. He then immediately asked me if Chandu Lal had shown me the paper he had sent the night before and without waiting for my answer desired Munirul Moolk to read it to me. I have the honour to enclose copy and translation of the paper. The meaning of the last passage is not quite clear and original. It may mean, addressed to the Rajah, "Munirul Moolk has already declared a———I now called upon you to declare" or it may contain an allusion of the clandestine communication which Munirool Moolk still persists in carrying on with the Nizam. It would hardly perhaps have occurred to me to remark the ambiguity of this passage, if I had not observed, that Munirool Moolk when he read it to me before the Nizam, put it in the form of a question addressed to me, and said, "has Munirul Moolk explained this particularly to you. I told the Nizam that I was

not aware of any transaction which remained unsettled; that I had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which all points of business were conducted by Chandu Lal and that as long as the Rajah continued to enjoy His Highness's confidence and regard, there could be no doubt that every thing would be conducted to the entire satisfaction both of His Highness and of the British Government. The Nizam repeated that all points of business which had occurred during Meer Allum's administration had been adjusted by him, and that the present ministers were responsible for all transactions which had occurred since that time.

18. The anxiety which the Nizam has so frequently expressed, both now and before, that all former transactions should be admitted to have been adjusted, proceeds I suspect from an apprehension which he seems to have constantly entertained, lest any discoveries should be made, or any notice taken of the treacherous correspondence which he has undoubtedly at different times maintained with Mahipat Ram, and other persons. From what passed about the Shookka it was evident that the Nizam suspected it related to some offensive measure, which was meditated against him probably to a demand for money or territory. He.............. ....himself very much upon his accurate knowledge of the treaties between his Government and the Company, and it is not at all unlike his character to connect the supposed subject of the present Firman with that of the firman mentioned in the first article of the treaty of 1768, with his father as containing a free gift of the Northern Circar from the king to the Company. But whatever the real source of the Nizam's suspicions may have been, I thought the best way was to take no notice of them, and to leave their fallacy to become apparent of itself.

19. I tried repeatedly whilst I stayed with the Nizam to engage him in different subjects of conversation. I told him of the progress of the expedition, and spoke of the partial failure of the rains. I talked of a new house he is building on the plan of the Residency House, and asked him whether he intended visiting a favourite garden near the city which he frequently goes to at this season of the year, but I found that every attempt was equally ineffectful. He answered me civily and shortly, and seemed to be every moment in dread of my professing some offensive demand to him. After staying with him about twenty minutes I therefore requested his permission to retire. He dismissed me politely as he had received me, but with the same strong character of depression in his countenance and manner.

20. It would be useless to think of assigning reasons for a conduct, every part of which bears such features of insanity. But there can be little doubt, that much of the Nizam's resistance on this occasion, and many of the disgraceful suspicions he has betrayed, are to be imputed to the malicious insinuations of

Munirool Moolk, whose constant object seems to be to excite jealously and dissension between the Nizam and the Resident and to prevail upon the Nizam to oppose every measure which is either suggested, or conducted by Chandu Lal. It has long been evident, that Munirool Moolk is resolved to neglect no means of artifice or intrigue to subvert the present system of administration and to supplant Chandu Lal in his authority. But I have lately got possession of some curious papers, which place his real views and designs entirely beyond doubt, and prove so clearly the active part he took in the late discussion about Chandu Lal's account that much as I have already trespassed upon your Excellency's time in this dispatch I think it necessary to submit them to your notice.

21. Your Excellency is probably aware that Munirul Moolk believes in the doctrine of astrology, though without personally observing the miserable begotry and purile weakness of his character, it is difficult to credit, the extent to which he relies upon it, and makes it the rule of all his actions. He maintains an establishment of astrologers at his house, and not only consults them upon all transactions of business, but actually does not eat or drink or perform the most common duties of life without first ascertaining from them that the moment is auspicious. On ordinary occasions the answers to his questions are given verbally but whenever they are such as to require an intricate calculation, he is obliged to propose them in writing. The following are translations of three papers of this kind which he gave to one of his most confidential astrologers. They do not bear any dates, but I have put them in the order in which they appear to me from their contents to have been written. The first was probably written in May and the other two in June.

"1. Mr. Russell is ill, you must ascertain whether he will recover or die; and write me word. Will Mohammed Khan perform the service I have engaged with him for, or not? I am very often unwell, you must ascertain whether this is the effect of witchcraft, or in consequence of any defect in my constitution.

2. The question of Ally Zumaun. In how many days shall I have an audience of the Nizam? At the audience will the Nizam be in good humour with Ally Zuman or not? When will Chandu Lal be dismissed from his office and when will he die? Will the office of Peshkar remain with him, or not? In what time will it leave him? And will it leave him under circumstances of difficulty or otherwise?.

3. How long will Mr. Russell remain Resident and when will Chandu Lal lose the office of Peshkar? Will the Nizam take the money from Chandu Lal or not and will Chandu Lal pay it or not? Is Mr. Russell in his heart friend to Chandu Lal or not? Will there be any dissension between Chandulal and the Nizam or not? Does the Nizam think me his friend or not? When will Chandu

Lal pay the money? When will he die? Will Mr. Russell send for Yawar Ali from Poona or not? Will Ebn............Ali return here or not? Ascertain all this by a careful calculation, and in a day or two bring me an answer to each question, according to the result. Ascertain the period and the day, and the date and the month, and the year; in how many days, and how many months, it is all to happen. You must not consult my wishes, but tell me the real result of your calculations whatever it may be, in order that I may be set entirely at ease."

22. There is some difficulty in recognising Munirul Moolk's hand with certainty from his following a practice by no means uncommon at Hyderabad of cultivating different modes of writing, and using sometimes one, and some times another. But it appears to me that the third paper is in his hand disguised and that the second is nearly in his natural hand. The first I am inclined to suspect is in his hand too, though it is so much disguised as to make the resemblance very faint. The way in which my name is used by Munirul Moolk, confirms the fact I formerly had occasion to mention, that the measures pursued by the Resident are considered here to proceed entirely from his own personal inclination, and not from the orders of Government. When Munirul Moolk first found Chandu Lal was supported by Captain Sydenham, he employed a Fakeer to effect his removal by witchcraft. He thought that the principal would cease with the agent. The allusion to Mohammed Khan I do not understand but it probably relates to some event which was to be brought about by witchcraft. Ally Zaman is Munirul Moolk's original .... which is the one always adopted in consulting the astrologer. Yawur Ali is a person who called on Mr. Elphinstone at Poona about three months ago, and told him that he had been sent by Munirul Moolk to write news of his warfare. When I mentioned this to Munirul Moolk he disavowed Yawur Ali with great earnestness and desired, that if I had the least doubt upon the subject, I would send for him to Hyderabad. From the circumstances of both Captain Sydenham and I having had charge of the Residency at Poona immediately before our appointment to Hyderabad, Munirul Moolk has a superstitious notion that the next Resident will come from Poona too. Ebn Ali having been Captain Sydenham's Moonshy, is considered by Munirool Moolk to be a freind of Chandu Lall's.

23. While the altercation about Chandu Lall's accounts was going on, I heard from different quarters that Munirool Moolk frequently sent notes to the Nizam sometimes through his niece the Juhan Parwar Begum and sometimes through Izzat Yar Khan, the person mentioned in the 15th paragraph of my address to your Excellency of the 20th of June. I thought it of great importance to get possession of some of these notes and at length succeeded in procuring a sight of two of them, through one of the persons employed in the immediate custody of the Nizam's papers. I was

allowed to keep them only for a short time, as it was necessary that they should be immediately restored to the place they had been taken from. The following are translations of them :—

"1. For the present let an arrangement for the future be made. Your Highness will then see, how much money is collected. If your Highness directs, I will submit the plan of an arrangement to your Highness. If your Highness should approve of it, anything that your Highness please, can be done.

2. "He has falsified the account of the Soobah of Berar, which he has submitted to your Highness. He does not intend to pay the money of the Soobah. If your Highness uses any violence————get support from Mr. Russell. He————away with the money of the Sirkar clandestinely. For the present let an arrangement for the future be made. If your Highness entrusts me with your orders, your Highness will see how much money will be collected. Whatever your Highness may approve of may be done."

24. These Arzees being addressed to the Nizam are written in a fairer and rounder hand than Munirul Moolk uses on common occasions, but I have hardly any doubt of the hand-writing being his. The recommendation in both these papers that an arrangement for the future should be made corresponds with the Nizam's desire mentioned in the 4th paragraph of my address to your Excellency, dated the 15th of July. That for the future the charges should be reduced to the amount at which they stood in 1213 Fusly, though the temptation held out to the Nizam at the close of the second paper to entrust Munirool Moolk with his orders, seems to place the date of that paper before the message from the Nizam to Munirul Moolk described in the 4th paragraph of my proceeding address of the 2nd of July desiring him to depute officers of his own to assume charge of the country; and to appoint Mootusuddies to take charge of the different departments here.

25. I have the honour to enclose copies of these two Arzees, as well as of the three Notes addressed to the astrologer.

26. In many cases perhaps where the probable exertion of Munirool Moolk's intrigues can be foreseen, it may be practicable to prevent them, by working upon his fears. But when once the Nizam has been led by him into suspicion or instigated to resistance, the mischief is beyond the reach of any measures directed towards Munirul Moolk. It can no longer be corrected by him. The influence which he possesses over the Nizam's mind is applicable to bad purposes alone. He can lead the Nizam out of the straight path, but he cannot lead him back to it. He can betray him with————but he cannot encourage him to good. As long as his insinuations are directed either against us, or against the

Minister who is attached to our interests the Nizam will always listen to him with avidity, but if he ever attempts to inspire him with a manly liberal sentiment or recommends him to do a wise or honorable action his influence is at an end; the Nizam will immediately consider him as his enemy, and feel the same hatred, that he does of every man of chartcter in his Government.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
H. RUSSELL,
Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad:
The 9th September 1811.

No. 2

Translation of a note from Henery Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandu Lal, dated 23rd August 1811.

Having lately received from the Resident at Delhi, a Shookka from the king, in answer to an Arzadasht what was formerly addressed to His Majesty by His Highness the Nizam, and a considerable time having elapsed, since I had the honour of waiting on His Highness, I beg that you will request His Highness will be pleased to fix a day for granting me an audience, in order that I may deliver the Shookka from the King, and gratify my own anxious wish to pay my respects personally to His Highness.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

No. 3

Translation of an Arzee from Rajah Chandu Lal to His Highness the Nizam written the 1st of September 1811.

Mr. Russell's servants have been coming to me for the last five or six days for an answer to his application for an audience of your Highness. Mr. Russell constantly reminds me of the written declaration formerly given by your Highness, that an audience should unconditionally be granted to the Resident whenever he should apply for one and imputed the present delay to my negligence communicating his application to your Highness. I am therefore induced by my attachment to your Highness to take the liberty of recommending that Mr. Russel's application should be complied with; that your Highness should give orders for him receiving an audience, and that according to his former representation, your Highness should do him the honour to observe the customary form of embracing him. Your Highness

डॉ. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार,
ग्रंथ संग्रह

by the grace of God is the Sovereign. Nothing is concealed from your Highness, which anybody need take the liberty of explaining.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
1st Assistant.

No. 4

Translation of a letter from H. Russell Esqr., Resident at Hyderabad, to His Highness the Nizam, dated 4th September 1911.

Ten days ago I wrote to Rajah Chandu Lal that (recapitulate the Resident's note to the Rajah of the 23rd August), but although I have sent repeated messages to him, I have not yet received any satisfactory answer. I therefore take the liberty of addressing your Highness directly, to request that your Highness will be pleased out of your known kindness and in consideration of the friendship between the two Governments to appoint a day for granting me the honour of an audience.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
1st Assistant.

No. 4

Translation of an Arzee addressed by Rajah Chandulal. to His Highness the Nizam, dated the 2nd September 1811.

I have done everything I can to prevail upon Mr. Russell to deliver the Firman to Meer Allum's family in the first instance. I have assured him, that after that, your Highness will receive him properly and embrace him. Mr. Russell says in answer that his wish is to wait upon your Highness in person, and that it never had been customary for papers of the description of a Firman to be delivered to anybody but your Highness. That the Firman being from the King, the greater appearance of respect it is received with, the more it would......................to your Highness's credit, and that its being delivered by the Resident in person makes it a mark of still higher honour to your Highness. That circumstances of this kind tend also to increase the friendship between the two Governments, and that as your Highness is thoroughly acquainted with the forms observed on such occasions he trusts your Highness will be pleased to consent to do what has always been customary. I therefore take the liberty of intreating your Highness to comply with the request about which Mr. Russell seems to be so anxious, and to gratify his wish by granting him an audience. Mr. Russell is a sincere well-wisher of your Highness's person and it is entirely from my attachment to your Highness that I have ventured to repeat my representation on this subject to Your Highness.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Translation of a note from Rajah Chandulal to Henry Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 5th September 1811.

Your letter has been received by His Highness, and by the grace of God your application for an audience to deliver the Firman from the King has been consented to. The reason of the delay in your receiving an answer was, that His Highness was desirous of settling some former discussion with his Ministers. By the blessing of God, that discussion has now been satisfactorily settled, and His Highness has directed me to give you this explanation in order that no complaint or remonstrance may be made in consequence of the delay, and that an audience may be granted to you satisfactorily.

As soon as I receive your answer to this note, a letter will be written to you by His Highness in answer to your letter and fixing a day for your having an audience.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Translation of a note from H. Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandulal, dated the 6th September 1811.

I have had the honour to receive your note, informing me that my letter had been received by His Highness and that my application for an audience to deliver the Firman from the King had been consented to, and explaining the reason of the delay in my receiving an answer and have understood its contents.

As the reason of the delay was that His Highness was desirous of settling some former discussion with his Ministers which has now by the blessing of God been satisfactorily settled, it is not of much consequence. I now request that you will be so good as to apply to His Highness for an answer to my letter appointing a day for my receiving an audience.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Nizam to Henry Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 6th September 1811.

I have received your letter informing me of the arrival of a Firman from the King, and expressing your anxiety to have the honour of an audience of me. You will come to the Durbar on the morning as usual tomorrow which is Saturday.

What more need be written.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Translation of a paper sent by His Highness the Nizam to Rajah Chandulal, dated the 6th September 1811.

At the time of the death of Meer Abdul Kasim, the Minister of the Sirkar settled all the affairs of Government, and for any other transaction relating to the Sirkar, which may since then have occurred, those Ministers are responsible. This they admit. They are ready to provide for everything. They will give an answer on the subject of the Firman. There is nothing remaining which can be a ground of altercation. Munirool Mulk has declared this particularly.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Letter No. 20.—The enclosure to this covering note is very important. It is a copy of Russell's address to the Vice President in Council, dated the 31st October 1811. In this address Russell describes the continuance of Nizam's suspicions against Chandulal, fomented by Munir-ul-Mulk's and his refusal to do public business. Munir-ul-Mulk's conspiracy to get rid of Chandulal by stirring trouble against him, among the people and the army is also mentioned. The endeavour of Munir-ul-Mulk to control all the transactions of money and to have Russell Changed has been explained.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 7th November 1811.

I have the honour to send you a copy of my address No. 7 dated the 31st ultimo to His Excellency the Vice-President.

[NOTE.—It is rather strange that the last five enclosures bear dates from 29th December 1811 to 18th January 1812. An enclosure ought to bear a date prior to that of the covering letter.]

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT, FORT WILLIAM.

HONOURABLE SIR,

Your Excellency already knows that the Nizam at the intercession of Lieutenant Charles Russell consented to the return of Noorool Omrah, and Rao Rumbha, and that Noorul Omrah accompanied me from the Frontier to Hyderabad. There was some delay in Rao Rambha's returning on a point of ceremony, but he has now arrived, and has visited the Nizam and the Ministers. None of Rao Rambha's Jagheers had been taken from him, but Noorul Omrah's including the grants for the payment of his troops had been reduced from 16,31,000 to 3,60,000 Rupees a year. The resources of the Government were not in a state to admit of his party of troops being restored to its former strength, but Rajah Chandu Lal has made up his Jagheers to 5,40,000 Rupees a year, out of which he has to maintain only a Battalion of Infantary, and 500 Horse. The recall of these Omrahs from banishment, and their restoration to rank and affluence are known to have been entirely brought about by us, and have given us great popularity among that class of persons whose interests are most affected by our alliance with the Nizam, and towards whom it is most rarely in our power to perform any acts of grace or benefit.

2. The Nizam has been very unwell lately and has only just recovered. When he was first taken..................he consulted the physicians who generally attended him but on reading their prescriptions, he flew into passion, and said, they were a parcel of ....and did not know so much of their profession as he did himself. He therefore wrote his own prescription and proposed his own medicines, and would not allow anybody to attend him, or even to see him, except a few of his own female servants. Before the end of the Ramzan he was sufficiently recovered to go out, and he went to pass a few days at the house he lived in, during his father's lifetime. But he did not hold a public Durbar on the ....which it has hitherto been the invariable practice for the prince to do, to receive the Nuzzars and congratulations of his Omrahs and principal servants. Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal, after waiting the greater part of the day, were just leaving the palace, when the Nizam sent for them, and received their Nuzzars, and those of a few other persons. He was standing, and dismissed them all immediately without speaking to any body.

3. The Nizam's obstinate retirement from public business of every kind is inconvenient in those cases which require his personal sanction though upon the whole it rather strengthens Chandu Lal's authority than otherwise. It compels everybody to look up to him alone for the adjustment of any business they have to transact; and constitutes him in fact, though not in name the sole, and for ordinary purposes the absolute Minister of the Government. But the entire stop that has been put to every appearance of show or state, and the Nizam's sullen seclusion of himself from all established forms and ceremonies, is very offensive to the whole body of the Omrahs, and to all those persons who have any feeling of either pride or interest, in the parade and splendour of the Court. Except when he has given audience to the Resident, he has hardly held a single public Durbar since Meer Allum's death; and he has now directed that no report shall be made to him of the persons who are in daily attendance at the palace, unless he himself calls for it. This foolish conduct has done the Nizam a great deal of injury among his own subjects, and has made him more unpopular even among the lowest classes of them than ever he was before.

4. A few days ago when Moonirul Moolk and Chandu Lal were leaving the Durbar they were told that a large mob had collected on the streets near the palace, and were very violent and dangerous, about the high price of grain. They both of them attempted to proceed, and Noorul Ormah was allowed to pass with hardly any

interruption; but so...............an attack was made upon Chandu Lal that he was obliged to send for a considerable party of troops to clear the streets, and escort him to his own house. He was detained in the Court of the palace almost the whole of the day, and several of his attendants were severely hurt. A great part of the mob that were collected and especially the persons who took the lead in the attack upon Chandu Lal were observed to be of a different description from the common public of the city; and a report has been prevalent that they were employed by Munirool Moolk. Their allowing him to pass and even with his weakness and effeminacy, his attempting to do so, has of itself a very suspicious appearance; and I know from unquestionable authority that when word was brought to him of the Rajah's having got safely some, he said, "Well, he has escaped this trial, but he has two others yet awaiting him. He has still to defend himself against the clamours of the troops for their arrears of pay, and unless I am very much mistaken, the Nizam has not entirely done with his accounts".

5. Your Excellency is sufficiently acquainted with the character and views of Munirul Moolk to judge how difficult, I may almost say, how impossible it is, to deter him from the prosecution of his intrigues. He knows that his detection would expose him to the whole force of our resentment; and by this time, he must see that although the Nizam makes use of him as a............, he hates and despises him too much ever to entrust him with either confidence or authority. Yet such is his reliance on his own skill and cunning, or so virulent his hatred of Chandu Lal, or so irresistible his propensity to double dealing of every kind, that no cautions or menaces of mine, no sense of danger, no regard for his own interests, no kindness or conciliation on the part of Chandu Lal can act as any restraint upon his proceedings. The papers of which the following are translations have been sent by Munirool Moolk to his niece the Juhan Parwar Begum within the last six weeks. I procured them from the same quarter as those I submitted to your Excellency in my last address; and I am as much satisfied of their being genuine as it is reasonable to be on any occasion of this suspicious nature.

Note from Munir-ul-Mulk to Juhan Parwar Begum.

"During the investigation into the accounts, His Highness directed me to depute my own people to every village, and make an arrangement for the districts of the Sirkar. No thought upon the subject has yet entered Chandu Lal's mind. Govind Buksh has concluded the ceremonies of the Deshara and Diwali, and is applying to His Highness for leave to return to the Army. If an arrangement is not now effected according to my wishes it will go very hard with me next year. I am therefore reduced to the necessity of addressing an Arzee to His Highness. Immediately you receive it, you must contrive some method of delivering it. Let me know when you have done so. For the future I shall do, whatever you desire."

Arzee to the Nizam enclosed in the above.

"Your Highness directed me to make an arrangement for the districts of the Sirkar and to ascertain the rate of the assets, and disbursements, and the amount that is really expended. Chandulal has not yet given me any information of the state of the country, but relying on his connection with the English, has gone on applying and desolating it. He is now also applying to your Highness to permit Govind Buksh to leave Hyderabad. On this account I take the liberty of unreservedly calling your Highness's attention to the real condition of affairs. I have no recourse but in the shade of your Highness's feet. I therefore trust, that your Highness will be pleased to direct Chandulal, to attend at my house with the Dufter, and the Mootusuddies of the Sirkar, and to make an arrangement for the country. I await your Highness's orders to show, how much I will save to the Sirkar and what an increase I will make in the population. I have represented what was proper."

Second note from Munir-ul-Mulk to the Juhan Parwar Begum.

"Rajah Chandulal has formed a close intimacy with Mr. Russell, and depending on his friendship has resumed the districts of Aminul Moolk Bahadur, and Jamal Khan Lohanee between whom he has fabricated a story of a clandistine connection. He invites the English every month to his garden, to ingratiate himself with them and entertains them with feasts and dancing, and in other ways, and presents them with thousands in money and jewels beyond the power of writing to describe. God protect us, or what will become of us hereafter. I confide you in the name of God and his prophet. I bind you by an oath upon my head, to bring these things to His Highness's hearing. It will be very desirable for you to tell him, that Chandulal has formed so extraordinary an intimacy with the English, as cannot be described, that no month passes without his entertaining them to dancing, feasts and parties and in other ways. If His Highness once hears this, there is no saying what views may not occur to him. You must reflect in your own mind, upon what I have here proposed, and carry it into effect as soon as you can. Chandulal now holds the intercourse with the English in his own hands. It was from fear of His Highness, that I kept myself on one side when Mr. Russell arrived here. If providence is favourable to me, His Highness will perhaps resolve to get a new Resident, or I shall be reduced to the necessity of forming the same sort of connection with the English that Meer Allum did before. I am quite in despair. Without a connection with the English my affairs will never prosper, and Chandulal will never be brought to look up to me, or court me."

6. I have not been able to ascertain whether the Juhan Parwar Begum delivered Munirul Moolk's Arzee or Message to the Nizam, but by what I can collect, I rather think she did not. I have heard from various quarters, that she has been less in the Nizam's favour lately than Chandulal's patroness, the Chandni Begum;

and since the altercation about my audience, the Nizam has not attempted to disturb the Rajah or to oppose him on any point whatever. The Rajah himself professes to believe that the Nizam still retains his partiality for him; and his dislike of Munirul-Moolk is certainly as great, and as notorious as ever it was.

7. The Nizam's avarice, and his jealousy of us, are the passions to which Munirul Moolk principally addressed himself, and to which he will entirely owe any impression he may make upon the Nizam's mind. The measures of preventing Govind Buksh's return to Berar, I heard some time ago, was in Munirool Moolk's contemplation. His object was to strike a severe blow at Chandulal's authority, and he hoped to bring the Nizam into his views by proposing to him to give his elder son Nasir-ood-Dowlay the charge of Berar and to send Rao Rumbha with him as Dewan. As soon as I heard of this project, I took care to let it be understood, that I should resist it to very . . . and in order to prevent Munirul Moolk having any time to mature his designs, I desired Chandulal to send his brother back to Berar at once. The Rajah applied to the Nizam immediately and after some little delay obtained an audience of leave for Govind Buksh, who has now actually left Hyderbad. Of the districts of Munirul Moolk's brother, Ameenool Mulk, which he alludes to, in his second note to the Juhan Parwar Begum, one was resumed at Aminul Moolk's own request, on account of the turbulent spirit of the inhabitants; the other was one of the districts in Berar, allotted to Govind Buksh for the support of his establishment, which he farmed some time ago to Aminul Moolk, but being unable to realize the rent, he applied to Chandulal to have it restored to him. None of the districts personally belonging to Aminul Moolk have been touched by Chandu Lal. Jamal Khan Lohanee is a person who farmed several districts from the Government. He very foolishly and insolvently set himself up in avowed opposition to Chandulal and compelled him at last to resume his lands.

8. But unless Chandulal is plotting in his turn, and retorting upon his rival with his own weapons, Munirul Moolk has lately attempted a more certain method of getting rid of the Rajah than either instigating a mob to attack him, or making him an object of the Nizam's jealousy. Chandulal told me a few days ago, that he had detected a conspiracy to poison him. Aminul Moolk, he said, was the person with whom it had originated and his cook, the instrument who had been employed to effect the purpose. The cook had already received 5,000 Rupees from his employers, and was to receive 10,000 more upon the Rajah's death. Stories of this kind are so easily fabricated and so many witnesses can be procured to support them that they are always to be received with great caution. The most that can be said upon this occasion, is that the charge is perfectly consistent with Munirul Moolk's character and habits, and that Chandulal has taken every step, which he probably would have taken, if the story were really true. He has seized and confined his cook who has been brought

up by him from his infancy, the Soukar through whom the advance of 5,000 Rupees is said to have been made, and he now eats nothing, but what is dressed by the females of his own family.

9. Amidst all this enmity and interference Munirul Moolk and Chandulal preserve the most entirely cordiality of manner towards each other. They meet and sit together every day at the Durbar; Chandulal often visits Munirul Moolk at his own house; and when Govind Buksh called to take leave of him he spoke of Chandulal in the handsomest and warmest terms, expressing the regret at the pains taken by their mutual enemies to sow dissention between them, and repeated the solemn oaths he had so often taken before that he considered Chandulal as his brother, and that he would resign the Dewanee tomorrow if any other person were appointed Peshkar.

10. As soon as I received the news of the glorious success of our arms at Batavia, I communicated it to Chandulal, and told him that I intended to fire a salute both at the Residency and in the Cantonment. The Rajah sent my note to the Nizam, and reminded him, that it was usual on such occasions for a salute to be fired in the city, but the Nizam took no notice of the hint, and the Rajah therefore ordered the salute to be fired of his own accord. The Nizam did not venture to find fault with him openly, for having done so; but he said to one of his attendants, "What are their victories to me, who share neither in the honour nor the advantage? No father takes delight in a child that is not of his own begetting."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Hyderabad: H. RUSSELL,
The 31st October 1811. Resident at Hyderabad.

Translation of a note from Henery Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandulal, dated the 29th December 1811.

I have this day received letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General for His Highness the Nizam, and Munirul Moolk, communicating the happy intelligence of the entire reduction of the island of Java and of His Lordship's safe return to Calcutta, and I am therefore anxious to have the honour of an audience of His Highness. I request that you will have the goodness to communicate this to His Highness and to inform me what day His Highness may be pleased to appoint.

Translation of a note from Rajah Chandulal to Henery Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 29th December 1811.

I have the honour to receive your note mentioning recapitulate the Resident's note of this date.

According to your desire I will, by the blessing of God, submit your note in a proper manner to His Highness tomorrow, and let you know what day may be fixed for your audience.

Translation of a paper delivered to His Highness the Nizam by Munir-ul-Mulk on the 6th January 1812.

I beg leave to submit to your Highness for the present the plan which suggests itself to my feeble understanding. If your Highness is pleased to approve of it it shall not be departed from in the smallest degree. My representation is this. I will myself submit personally to your Highness whatever representations may be necessary in the business of the Sirkar, and when your Highness may be pleased to remain in the inner apartments, if any thing important should occur I will represent it through the Asseels of the Juhan Parwar Begum, and nothing shall be done which may be offensive to the Begum or in any way displeasing to her.

Translation of a letter from Henery Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, to His Highness the Nizam, dated the 13*th January* 1812.

On the 29th of December I informed Rajah Chandulal that I had received letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General for your Highness and Munirul Moolk, and desired that he will communicate it to your Highness and request that your Highness would be pleased to appoint a day for me to have the honour of waiting upon your Highness to deliver the letters. But although a fortnight has passed, I have not yet received any satisfactory answer. I therefore beg leave to address your Highness and to request that you will inform me on what day it may be your Highness's pleasure to receive me.

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Nizam to Henery Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 18*th January* 1812.

I have received your letter applying for an audience to deliver the letters of the Governor-General. You will come to the Durbar as usual on the morning of the 14th of Mohurram 1227.

What more need be written.

True translations.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

SINDHIA'S AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—This forms the enclosure to Mercer's letter to Jenkins. He informs the Governor-General about the disputes between the Rajput states, and the negotiations between them and the Sindhia and Holkar, for refraining from interference in the affairs of Jaipur.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, the 6th February 1807.

HON'BLE SIR,

The Jaipur Vakeel Ram Kishan Bhorah arrived in Camp on the 2nd instant. The result of his conferences with the Durbar has been a resolution to detach Rajah Ambajee and Bappoo Sindia with a body of horse towards Jaipur for the purpose of securing Sindia's interests with the Rajah, whilst His Highness with the remainder of the Army is to continue in this neighbourhood, until Ambajee's communications with the Jaipur Durbar might enable him to judge of the expediency of Sindhia's march to that quarter.

2. Ambajee has accordingly pitched his tent at a short distance from the Army, but a considerable delay in his departure may still be occassioned by the impressions which has been seditiously attempted to be made on Sindia's mind in regard to Ambajee's intentions, together with the difficulty of paying up the troops who are to accompany him, and the advice which has been given to His Highness, to protract Ambajee's march until he shall have discharged the amount due from him which has not yet been effected, notwithstanding the delivery of the Fort of Gwalior to his people.

3. It has been at the same time strongly urged to Sindia both by Ambajee's party and the Jaipur Vakeel that the crisis to which the dispute between the Rajput states has been now brought, cannot admit of any delay in the measures he may resolve to pursue, and that the Jaipur Rajah is already in Treaty with Holkar for his relinquishing all interference in the business and retiring into Malwa, which if effected, will render Sindia's assistance useless and deprive from prompt measures. To provide for this state of affairs an engagement has been taken from the Jaipur Vakeel for the payment of ten lakh of rupees on this sole condition of Sindia's not assisting Rajah Mansingh and a promise that the tribute which may be hereafter settled for Sindia with Dhokul Singh, should be under this responsibility of Rajah Jugget Singh.

4. The accounts which have been received from Ramchander Pundit Sindia's Vakeel, in Holkar's Camp also state that Holkar is negotiating with the Jaipur Rajah through Bhow Bhaskar for a sum of money to relinquish all interference in the dispute, and that he had accordingly under various pretences hitherto evaded joining Mansingh with his troops whilst the Bekaner and Pokrah Rajahs had arrived with their forces near the Jaipur Camp and were immediately to join that Chief who was encamped at a short distance from Mansingh's Army and had ordered his troops to forage in the Jodhpore territory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Kemlassar : G. MERCER,

The 6th February 1807. Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No. 2.—The enclosure is Mercer's letter to the Governor-General in which he reports the details of the interference of the Holkar and Sindhia in the affairs of Jaipur and Jodhpur.

From—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 28th February 1807.

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my dispatch of the 25th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I had the honour to address you on the 10th instant.

2. Rajah Ambajee moved yesterday four coss from this camp, but as many of the troops who are to accompany him have not as yet joined him, it is probable that some days may still elapse before he proceeds on his march towards Jaipore. Baptiste's Brigade, which was by the latest accounts near Kotah has been, in the meantime ordered to join Bala Engleah in the Jaipore Camp. Ambajee is to be joined on his march by three Battalions from the Gwalior District.

3. Jaswant Rao Holkar continues to negotiate with the Jaipore Rajah for his retiring from all interference in the dispute between that Chief and Rajah Man Singh but the Jaipore Rajah has been urged by this Durbar to delay the payment of any money in consequence of an agreement of this nature till Ambajee's arrival whilst Holkar is endeavouring to force a speedy conclusion of it by plundering the villages of the Jaipore territory.

4. The parties principally concerned in the dispute appear at the same time to avoid actual hostilities with each other as they must both be sensible of the views of Sindia and Holkar in their interference. It is still possible that they may by mutual concession adjust their differences and avoid the serious evils likely to be entailed upon them by permitting these Chiefs to become arbiters in their family contests.

5. Should no such adjustment however take place although I am fully convinced that the views of both Sindia and Holkar are confined at present to the object of obtaining money from both parties and that neither of them are inclined to engage in actual hostilities with the other, yet it appears difficult to surmize how this object can be prosecuted by both without the risk of an open rupture. The consequence of Holkar's retiring from an interference in the present dispute . . . . of a sum of money from the Jaipur Rajah, would be a decided superiority of influence and authority with all the Rajput states in favour of Sindia who would remain the sole arbiter and as the exactions which Holkar has hitherto been enabled to raise upon these states have formed a very principal resource for the support of his troops, it is not probable that he would abide by an engagement to this purport however solemnly concluded farther than might be necessary to secure an immediate advance of money. He has entirely failed in his endeavours to adjust by his mediation the difference between the Jaipore and Jodhpore Rajahs the success of which would have enabled him to extricate himself with credit from his present embarrassment and although he may reasonably hope from the indecision and levity of this Durbar that full advantage will not be taken of the favourable circumstances under which Sindia could at present enter into a close connection with the Jaipore

state, yet he appears to consider Ambajee's mission as a proof that Sindia is well inclined to avail himself of them and has repeatedly endeavoured to prevent it.

6. Ambajee's future influence and favour with Sindia must in a great measure depend upon the success of the measure with the execution of which he has been entrusted, and of which he has been the principal adviser. It is generally believed in the Durbar that Ambajee's personal animosity to Holkar would induce him to take any favourable opportunity which might arise of promoting a contest between him and Sindia. This circumstance, with the avowed intention of Ambajee to deprive Serjee Rao Ghatka of his influence and authority in the Udaipore Government has been seriously urged to Sindia by a party in the Durbar with the view of preventing his mission; and although these representations have failed in their principal object yet it is supposed that the measure of giving the command of a great part of the troops under Ambajee to Bappoojee Sindia who is well disposed towards Holkar has been adopted with the intention of obviating the effects of a contrary disposition on the part of Ambajee. This reason has, I understand, been assigned to Holkar's Vakeels for sending Bapoojee Sindia, and should it be the real one the precaution by fettering Ambajee's exertions may probably deflect the principal object of his mission that of obtaining money from the Jaipore Rajah, who will not be inclined to give any considerable amount without being secured by vigorous measures on the part of Ambajee from the enmity of Holkar or a positive declaration of hostility with the latter should he join Rajah Man Singh.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. MERCER,

Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Camp near Khemlassar:
The 25th February 1807.

Letter No. 3.—The enclosure is a letter from Mercer to Governor-General in which the former reports the accounts of Rajah Man Singh's (Jodhpur) return from Jaipur.

From—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 29th March 1807.

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my letter to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council of yesterday's date.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

Nothing of importance has occurred in this Durbar since I had the honour to address you on the 15th instant.

2. Jeswant Rao Holkar has arrived in the vicinity of Kotah, where it is supposed he will remain until he shall have realized the amount to be paid to him by the Jaipore Rajah, which had been granted by bills on that place.

3. The account which have been received of Rajah Man Singh having retired with precipitation from before the Jaipur Army only differ in respect to the loss he has sustained. It would appear however that he had lost some guns and a great part of his baggage. His Vakeels at this Durbar assign as a reason for this conduct contrary to the generally allowed spirit of the Rathore Rajpoots, that Mansingh had discovered a treacherous communication between the Thakurs or Chiefs who had hitherto supported him and those on the party of Dhokul Singh, and under such circumstances did not deem it advisable to hazard an action. This statement would appear to be confirmed by a number of those Chiefs having since his retreat, joined the Jaipur army. Mansing himself is said to have retired to the strong fort of Jalare and although it is not probable that he will again be enabled to collect a force sufficient to oppose the Jaipore army in the field, yet by confining himself to defensive operations, he may oblige the Jaipore Rajah to enter into terms with him, as the heavy expenses of the Jaipore Army are already become burthensome and if Rajah Juggut Singh can accomplish the original object of his interference—his marriage at Udaipore—there is little doubt that he would be inclined to settle Dhokul Singh's pretentions on easy terms.

4. The force which marched from the Jaipore army to atttack Rajah Mansingh's Camp was principally composed of Meer Khan's Troops and the Hyderabad Rassallah formerly in Holkar's service whilst the troops which had been allowed by Holkar to join Mansingh under Jeolaul Baboo do not appear to have made any resistance. Holkar's conduct towards Rajah Mansingh is reprobated even in this Durbar and his influence and authority with both parties has certainly suffered by it.

5. The late accounts from Delhi that His Majesty Akbar Shah was about to enter his tents and the declaration of Rajah Mansingh's Vakeel here that he had dispatched another Vakeel to the Resident at Delhi and had resolved from the treachery he had experienced to resign his country to the British Government had impressed in this Durbar suspicions that some measure might be taken by the Government in favour of Mansingh. I

directed my Moonshy to explain to the Maharajah the circumstance of His Majesty proposing to make a short circuit of the environs of Delhi, and to repeat my appearances that no interference in favour of any party was intended by the Government. I also took an opportunity yesterday at a visit to Anna Siccanavis on the occasion of his son receiving the Bhraminical string, to urge to him and to Gopal Rao Bhow the unreasonableness of such suspicions which I derived from the principle upon which you had uniformly acted towards Sindia's Government and upon which you had declared your resolution to act in regard to the other states of Hindostan and added that no preferred advantage could induce you to depart from this principle. They both declared that they were satisfied in regard to the friendly disposition of the Government towards Sindia but asked me to wish to the Resident at Delhi not to attend to the representations of Rajah Man Singh's Vakeels on this subject. I replied that this was totally unnecessary, as the Resident at Delhi acted under the same orders that I did, and would consequently give the same answer to any representation that might be made by them. Anna then said that he was confident the Maharajah would be entirely satisfied by which I had stated.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Khemlassar:
The 28th March 1807.

G. MERCER,
Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No. 4.—The enclosure is a letter from Mercer to the Governor-General in which he adverts to the affairs of Angrias-Moorarji Angria, Baboo Rao Angria, and the conflicts between Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 15th April 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 14th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

P. S.

16th April 1807.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my letter of this date to the Secretary to the Government in the Political Department.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 7th instant I have received from the Sub-Secretary to the Bombay Government a copy of a letter to your address from the Governor in Council of that Presidency dated the 7th ultimo stating the measures pursued in consequence of the attack upon Colabah made by the partisans of Morarjee Angria. The Resident at Poona has also transmitted to me copies of his correspondence with the Bombay Government on that subject and of his address to you of the 3rd ultimo.

2. I have communicated the circumstances detailed in these letters to Dowlat Rao Sindia, stating the reasons which had induced the Bombay Government to interfere, and he has expressed himself much pleased with the attention which has been paid by the Bombay Government to the interests of Baboo Rao Angria.

3. On the 25th ultimo I received from the Durbar a representation of the conduct of Morarjee Angria in exciting disturbances against Baboo Rao Angria, with request from Sindia that I would transmit it to the Resident at Poona as he was extremely anxious that nothing should occur to prevent Baboo Rao Angria from proceeding to this Camp for which he had made preparations when these disturbances commenced. This request I accordingly complied with.

* * * *

5. The accounts from the Westward have been of late very deficient. It appears however that the Jaipore Troops had taken possession of the town and fort of Nagore and had proclaimed Dhokul Singh in that province. It is further reported that the Jaipur Rajah had himself arrived within a short distance of Jodhpore and entertained hopes of Dhokul Singh's being also acknowledged in that Capital. Rajah Man Singh was said to be encamped about 15 coss from Jodhpore.

6. Jeswant Rao Holkar continued encamped near Kotah on the 9th instant. He perseveres in his solicitations to Sindia for a meeting, which, however have been evaded as formerly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

G. MERCER,

Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Camp near Khemlassar:

The 14th April 1807.

Letter No. 5.—Edmonstone has been intimated that Chitoo the leader of the Pindaries had been brought a prisoner to the Camp of the Sindhia.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp near Khemlassar, the 16th April 1807.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo directing me to state to Dowlat Rao Sindia the just expectation of the British Government that he would furnish the late outrages of the Pindaries in the person of their leader I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council that Cheetoo Pindarah was yesterday brought to this Camp under a guard of Sindia's horse and is now in confinement. As both the principal leaders of these predatory bands are now in Sindia's power it may be reasonably hoped that a repetition of the outrages complained of may, for a certain time, at least be prevented though from the confirmed habits of the Pindarahs the permanent security of the countries when their depredations have been committed must still in a great measure depend upon the activity of the troops stationed in them.

2. Since I had the honour to address to the Hon'ble the Governor-General on the 14th instant accounts have been received from the Jaipur Army of the 2nd instant by which it appears that the seige of the city of Jodhpore had been commenced.

Letter No. 6.—The enclosure to this letter from Mercer to the Governor-General, dated 8th May, reports the activities of Sindhia regarding the siege of Raotgarh, the occupation of Jodhpur by the Jaipur Army, the encampment of the Holkar near Kotah, and the disposition of the Rajput Rajahs and Sindhia's Sirdars.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 10th May 1807.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my dispatch No. 68 of the 8th instant to the address of the Honourable the Governor-General in council for your information.

TO—HONOURABLE SIR G. H. BARLOW BART., K. B., GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

This Army continues engaged in the siege of the fort of Raot Ghur in which however but little progress has been hitherto made and the troops employed have suffered considerably. Negotiations have been entered into with the Garrison for the payment of a sum of money but nothing has as yet been adjusted; though it appears probable that the approach of the rains, and deficiency of ammunition for the Battering Guns, will force Sindia to settle matters with them upon the terms proposed.

2. The Jaipur Army had obtained possession of the town of Jodhpur, but the fort still held out by the latest accounts received in this Camp and Rajah Man Singh had refused the proposition made to him for his retiring to Jalore.

3. Holkar continues encamped near Kotah and no mention is made to his intention to move from that position.

4. Rajah Ambajee and Bappoojee Sindia are proceeding very slowly towards the Jaipur Camp. The clashing interests of these Sirdars have occasioned as might have been expected, violent disputes between them, and mutual complaints of the conduct of each other have been transmitted to the Durbar. The troops have plundered and raised contributions on the villages of the Jaipur country on the route by which they have marched, and this conduct has afforded the Jaipore Durbar a plausible argument for withholding the payment of the amount promised to Sindia. Ambajee has urged the necessity of Sindia's moving in the direction of Jaipur for the purpose of assisting his negotiations, but this measure is not considered by the Durbar as likely to be advantageous and indeed Ambajee's friends here appear to have little hopes of the ultimate success of his mission. It is reported that intrigues are successfully carried and in the Jaipore Durbar against the Dewan Raee Chand, the sole advisor of the late measure, that Meer Khan and some of the other leaders of the subsidiary troops have interested themselves to prevent Man Singh's total expulsion and that the Jaipur Rajah himself has expressed a great anxiety for a termination of the warfare in which he had engaged himself and a wish to encourage terms of agreement between Rajah Man Singh and Dhokul Singh.

5. In consequence of these circumstances Sindia has written to Rajah Jugget Singh, that should he violate the agreement entered into for the payment of the money he (Sindia), would accede to the propositions which had been repeatedly made to him of joining Holkar and Rajah Man Singh against him, and hinting that he possessed other and sufficient means of furnishing such a breach of faith by supporting the claim of Man Singh, the supposed posthumous son Rajah Pirtee Singh, the elder brother of Pertaule Singh, the present Rajah's father, and consequently the supposed legal heir to the Musnud of Jaipore. With a view of giving some weight to this latter threat Sindia has directed that attention should be paid to Man Singh, who has long resided at Gwalior and has been supported by the contributions of some of the principal families in the Jaipur country as well as by a small Jaghire from Sindia.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Raotghur :
The 8th May 1807.

G. MERCER

Letter No. 7.—Mercer reports that the Sindia was still busy in the siege of Raotghur. It has been contemplated that his troops and Nagpur troops are to join for attacking Hoshangabad. Nagpur troops had already taken Makrai, the principal fort of Chitoo. The Jaipur army was still engaged in the siege of Jodhpur. The Sindhia wanted to prevent the marriage of Jaipur Rajah with the princess of Udaipur. Holkar was still encamped near Kotah and wanted to march to the assistance of Rajah Man Singh of Jaipur since he had received money from him.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp near Raotgarh, the 18th May 1807.

I had the honour to address you on the 8th instant.

2. Dowlat Rao Sindhia perseveres in the siege of the fort of Raotghur, although with but little prospect of ultimate success. His Highness has lately made over to the Nagpur Rajah the districts of Seoni and Gunge Basoudah for a sum of money, and proposals have been made by the Nagpur Vakeels for their jointly taking possession of the Bhopal country whilst the Manager, Meer Mohammad Khan, has hitherto evaded every endeavour to induce him to come to this camp, or to pay the tribute settled with him by Sindia and is preparing to resist the plan in agitation against the Bhopal Government. It is reported that a party of the troops of the Nagpur Rajah has obtained possession of Muckray, the principal fort of Cheetoo Pindarah, and that Sindia's troops now in the Saugor district are to join this party for the purpose of attacking the fort of Hoshangabad on the Nerbuddah, which is at present in possession of the Bhopal people, but formerly belonged to the Nagpur Government.

3. These measures appear however to be adopted by Sindia merely to procure a present supply of money from the Nagpur Rajah and the prosecution of them on his part must depend in a great measure on the result of Ambajee's mission, who continues to urge the necessity of Sindia's marching in the direction of Jaipur as the only means of enabling him to effect the object of it.

4. The Jaipur Army continued by the latest accounts engaged in the siege of the fort of Jodhpore. Several of the Rathore Thakoors who had joined the Jaipore Rajah have again left him, on a dispute with Seway Singh the Manager on the part of Dhokul Singh respecting their Jagheers. The Rajah's principal object seems now to be to effect his marriage at Udaipore, which Sindia has written to Ambajee and all his retainers in that quarter to prevent by every means of their power until his demand on the Jaipore Rajah shall be settled.

5. Holkar is still encamped in the vicinity of Kotah. He has made heavy demands on Ranah Jalim Singh, which the latter declared he is totally unable to discharge. Holkar has been urged to march to the assistance of Rajah Man Singh now that he has obtained the money from the Rajah of Jaipore. His solicitation he has evaded on the grounds of his not being able to quit his present position until he shall have settled his demands on Kotah and Boondee, but he still keeps up a regular communication with Rajah Man Singh from whom Vakeels have been sent also to this Durbar and have arrived within a few marches from the Camp.

Letter No. 8.—In the enclosure which he addressed to the Governor-General, dated the 13th August, Mercer reports that negotiations had been continuing between Rajah Man Singh of Jaipur and Rajah Ambajee Inglia and Bapoo Sindhia on behalf of Dowlat Rao. Further, he reports the possibility of a marriage between Dowlat Rao and a daughter of Baboo Rao Angria which was designed to reduce the influence of Baija Bai and Sarji Rao Ghatgay.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp near Raotghur, the 15th August 1807.

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my dispatch of the 13th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., K. B. GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

I have had the honour to receive through Mr. Secretary Monckton your letter to Dowlat Rao Sindia announcing to him the victory obtained over the French by the Russian Army in Poland. I immediately sent a message to His Highness requesting to know when it would be convenient for him to receive my visit for the purpose of delivering this letter. He replied that his present situation and the state of the weather induced him to wish that my visit should be delayed for some days, but that he would take an early opportunity of appointing a day for that purpose.

2. The heavy rains which have fallen almost incessantly for these last fifteen days have prevented Sindia from making any progress in the siege of Roatghur and the Garrison being well supplied with provisions and stores, show no disposition to surrender it to him.

3. Rajah Ambajee has written to the Durbar in strong terms respecting the measures pursued by Bappoo Sindia in his negotiations with Rajah Man Singh, and after much consultation it has been resolved by the Durbar to abide by the original intention of supporting the Jaipore Rajah's views. This resolution appears to be formed entirely upon the consideration of Rajah Man Singh's want of means to fulfil the promises of money of which he has been lavish and to be unconnected with any political object on the part of Sindia, farther than the immediate relief of his necessities by the expected payment from the Rajah of Jaipur. It may seem to confirm the opinion that upon Ambajee and Bapoo Sindia commencing separate negotiations, Baptiste who commands the principal Infantry force attached to these Chiefs requested Sindia's orders with respect to his own conduct and the answer returned to him was that he should join that party which should appear the most likely to be successful in obtaining money. Bappoo Sindia had engaged Meer Khan and Serjee Rao Ghautka who had both quitted the Jaipore Army as parties in his proposed measure in favour of Rajah Man Singh the manager on the part of Dhokul Singh who had been sent from the Jaipore Army for the purpose of conciliating Bapoo Sindia and the Rathore Thakurs who had left Dhokul Singh's party it was supposed that these Chiefs would immediately separate from Bapoo Sindia.

4. Baboo Rao Angreah had not by the latest accounts reached Ujjain where it is supposed he will remain until he shall have fully ascertained the footing he is to be upon in the Durbar and the views of the party by whose advice Sindia has so earnestly solicited him to proceed to this camp. The principal object of the Minister is I understand to promote a marriage between Sindia and a daughter of Baboo Rao Angreah a connection which they conceive may serve to reduce the influence of Baizah Bai and the party of Serjee Rao Ghautka of whose possible return to power they still entertain the greatest apprehensions. Balajee Kunjur has I learn informed the Durbar of his intentions of proceeding to Camp with Baboo Rao Angreah.

I have the honour to be,

Etc., etc.,

Camp near Raotghur:
The 13th August 1807.

GROME MERCER,
Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No. 9.—This forms an enclosure to letter No. 55. Mercer reports that the relations between Sindhia and Ambaji Inglia are becoming unpleasant. It appeared likely that Sindhia instead of co-operating with Nagpur Raja for the conquest of Bhopal, would think of personally interfering in the disputes of the Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs. The troops of Holkar were discontented and about to seize him,

when he advanced the arrears of their pay. Amir Khan and Sarji Rao Ghatgay while plundering Jaipur territory were defeated in an engagement by Jaipur troops near Kisangarh but defeated the Jaipur troops in a second engagement.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp near Raotgarh, the 7th September 1807.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter to Dowlat Rao Sindia transmitted by the Persian Secretary to the Government which I yesterday delivered to His Highness together with the Hon'ble Sir George Barlow's letter announcing your Lordship's nomination. Information had been given to Sindia of the contents of Sir G. Barlow's letter but I had no previous opportunity of delivering it in person, His Highness having held no Durbar for many days past. Sindia expressed his happiness at your Lordship's safe arrival and his confidence that the friendship which subsisted between the two Governments would be confirmed and improved under your Lordship's administration.

2. Your Lordship will have been apprized of the leading circumstances connected with the state of this Durbar. Sindia from his fondness for frivolous amusements and aversion to business has generally entrusted the conduct of his affairs to his Ministers. At present however there is no person who possesses the exclusive authority or influence of a Minister and although Rajah Ambajee Engleah before his departure on his mission to the Jaipore Raja was considered in that light yet the mutual injuries which had been sustained by both in past transactions whilst they tended to destroy that unreserved confidence, on the part of Sindia, which he had been accustomed to give to his Ministers served also to prevent any cordial attachment on the part of Ambajee to the Maharajah's interest. Ambajee has hitherto failed in the sole object of his mission that of obtaining money for Sindia, for, although he has certainly secured money from the Jaipore Rajah, he has remitted none to the Durbar. This circumstance with the clamour of the troops of this army for pay and the total failure in the attempts to take the fort of Roatghur which has been besieged for above five months has so incensed Sindia against Ambajee's party in the Durbar who have conducted his affairs, that he has refused for some days past to admit them into his presence and it was only yesterday that they were called upon to attend for the purpose of being present at my visit.

3. It is not probable that this Army will move from its present grounds until after the Dashreh in the course of next month and although Sindia who has entered into engagements with the

Raja of Nagpur for the conquest of the Bhopal country, which the death of the late Nawab Hyaut Mohammed Khan may seem to facilitate, yet as Sindia appears to have given up hopes of obtaining more money from the Nagpur Rajah on the grounds of his engagements, it is likely that he will not neglect the more important objects he may hope to attain by a personal interference in the disputes of the Rajah of Jaipore and Jodhpore and that his march may be directed to the north-westward.

4. Jeswant Rao Holkar continues in his cantonment at Banpoorah on the banks of the Chumbul. His troops had been in a state of mutiny and had proceeded to the extremity of seizing his person and confining him in the camp of the infantry Brigade until he delivered over to them his principal Banker to satisfy them in regard to their arrears of pay. No renewal appears to have been lately made of his proposals for a junction with Sindia. He informs Sindia that no sincere reconciliations can take place whilst he continues to be guided by the advice of Ambajee and his party and accuses Ambajee of intriguing with his (Holkar's) officers for the purpose of deposing him in favour of his brother Kashi Rao Holkar. In conformity to this intimation of the intrigues whether real or pretended, which were carrying on he has sent his brother in confinement to the fort of Hinglojghur near his present cantonment.

5. * * * * Ameer Khan and Serjy Rao Ghatkey who had separated from the Jaipore Army proceeded to plunder the Jaipore country when a force was detached against them by the Rajah under Sheolal Buksee. Sheolal appears to have been successful in a skirmish with these troops which took place near Kishangarh but in a second engagement 30 miles from Jaipore after Meer Khan had been joined by his Infantry Brigade under Mohammed Shah Khan, the Jaipore troops were completely defeated with the loss of guns and baggage. This circumstance will probably oblige the Jaipore Raja to relinquish the siege of Jodhpore and to return to his own Capital as it is confidently reported to be Holkar's intention to take advantage of Meer Khan's success by joining him with his Army and exacting money from the Rajah for his fort at so critical a juncture as mode of conduct which he adopted at the commencement of these disputes when he had engaged to join the party of Rajah Man Singh of Jodhpore against that Rajah. Such a measure appears to be entirely consistent with Holkar's usual policy and will tend to bring matters to a crisis between him and Sindia as the latter will be determined on joining Holkar in his exactions on the Jaipore Rajah or supporting the interests of the Rajah against Holkar by the prospect held out to him on either side of an immediate advance of money or by the temporary prevalence in his Durbar of the party of Serjee Rao Ghautka or that of Ambajee.

Letter No. 10.—This is an enclosure to his letter to Jenkins in which Mercer conveys the information that the agents of the Bhonsla had been pressing the Sindhia's agent for joint operations against Bhopal and that Ramchandra Appa, Sindia's Agent, had gone to the Holkar for discussing the terms of an offensive and defensive alliance, which are also mentioned in this letter. The terms are important.

From—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Sindhia's Camp, the 14th November 1807.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has at length succeeded in his negotiations with the Garrison of Raotghur for the evacuation of that Fort, which was taken possession of yesterday on the condition that a portion of country in the vicinity belonging to Sindhia shall be made over to the proprietors of Raotghur equal in revenue to the lands attached to the fort.

2. Sindhia has not as yet come to any determination respecting his own movements. The Vakeels of the Nagpur Rajah are urgent with him to remain in this quarter for the purpose of carrying on joint operations against the Bhopal state, and as his hopes of profiting by the disputes of the Jaipur and Jodhpore Rajahs must now be extinguished whilst promises are held out to him of an additional sum of money from Raghoji Bhonsla for his co-operation it is not improbable that he may continue in this neighbourhood for some months should he not be obliged by the unsettled state of matters in the Gohud Provinces to march to the northward.

3. Ramchand Appa, Sindhia's Vakeel to Holkar, who was stated in my last address to your Lordship to have taken his leave from Holkar, has arrived in this Camp. From the best information I have been hitherto able to obtain of the nature of the negotiations which have been carrying on by Ramchand with Holkar, it appears that they have been calculated to form a basis for a general offensive and defensive alliance between the two states and the following has been delivered to me as a correct statement of the purport of the several propositions now brought by Ramchandra Appa for Sindhia's approval :—

1st. That both Chiefs should consider the Peshwa as their sovereign and obey his orders by which means he may regain his former dignity and authority.

2nd. That they should consult and act jointly in any enterprize which they may think proper to undertake and that no new arrangements or operations should be undertaken without a previous mutual consultation.

3rd. That they should both avoid injuring or oppressing the servants or Sardars of the Peshwa who hold lands in the various parts of the country and on the contrary should both assist and support them if injured by others.

4th. That neither party should encourage or protect the Sirdars who might quit the service of the other.

5th. That orders should be given to the Sirdars of either state who might have occasion to march through the districts of the other to pay the utmost attention to the protection of them.

6th. That should either of the two states be attacked by any other state, both should make a common cause of it.

7th. That the tribute from Jaipore and Jodhpore should be collected in concert and should be divided equally between them.

8th. That they should continue to observe the same rules of friendship towards each other as had been observed by their ancestors.

9th. That no Zamindars flying from the country of either party should be protected.

10th. That if they should conquer any new country it should be equally divided between them.

11th. That if any Sirdar of either state should exact money from the country of the other the amount should be allowed to be credited in their mutual accounts.

4. The tenor of these articles is I understand extracted from the original engagements entered into by Sindhia and Holkar at Subbulghur in the beginning of the year 1805, under the management of Serjee Rao Ghatka, but as this engagement contained articles particularly inimical to the British Government and was virtually dissolved by the subsequent treaties executed by both parties with the Government, the above has been considered as a proper basis for renewing the connections which have been interrupted from that period. The articles stipulating for an equal division of the Jaipore and Jodhpore tributes and for each party rejecting the service of the Sirdars who may quit the service of the other are not newly introduced by Holkar, who writes that if the former is agreed to he will immediately proceed with his army to Shapoorah from whence he will be enabled to carry on the negotiations with the Jaipore and Jodhpur Rajahs for their mutual benefit.

5. The present Ministers of the Durbar with the exception of Gopal Rao Bhau, are very averse to enter into any intimate connection with Holkar of which they consider the return of Sarjee Rao Ghatka to power as a necessary consequence and still hope that they may have influence sufficient to replace Ambajee in the management of Sindhia's affairs. Letters have been accordingly

written to Ambajee by the Maharajah and the Minister assuring him that no blame is attached to his conduct from the failure of his mission and desiring him to return to camp. I understand . . . . whether Ambajee will again trust himself in the power of Sindhia. Gopal Rao Bhau interferes but little in the affairs of the Durbar but appears inclined to favour the negotiations with Holkar from his nephew Ramchandra Appah having the management of them and from his being less anxious than the others regarding the apprehended return of Ghautka.

6. Sindhia has as yet returned no answer to Holkar's pressing solicitation for the speedy return of the Vakeels with the articles executed and seems inclined to delay any final resolution on the subject. . . . . . . that the negotiation may terminate without any further result but should it be concluded there can be little doubt that the agreement will be no longer acted upon when it may be found inconvenient to the interests of either party of period which from the characters and views of the contracting parties cannot be distant. I shall however attentively watch the progress of it, and regularly submit to your Lordship such information as I may be enabled to obtain respecting it.

Letter No. 11.—This is an enclosure to his letter to Jenkins, dated 13th December 1807. Mercer encloses a copy of the proposed terms of friendship between Holkar and Sindhia.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Raotgarh, the 11th December 1807.

The enclosed is a translation from a copy of the propositions sent by Holkar to Dowlat Rao Sindia which I obtained (in figures).

2. (In figures) another copy of these propositions which differ only in the following points from that of which the translation is now sent that the latter part of the 9th article is entirely omitted and it contains . . . . . . for the . . . . . Vakeel . . . . . upon, is written as a proposition on the part of Sindhia to which is annexed, as an answer a direct refusal on the part of Holkar. That this might have been the state of the case when Sindhia's demand was first made. I have little doubts, but I am inclined to believe that the copy from which the translation is now sent is correct and that Holkar considers his agreement to this demand as the only foundation to his hopes of obtaining Sindhia's consent to the other articles. The flattering prospect held out to

Sindhia of the receipt of a large sum of money, might influence him notwithstanding his knowledge of Holkar's character and poverty, whilst there is nothing in the other articles from which he could derive any immediate advantage. (In figures) was asked the purport of the article which renewed the agreement at Subbulghur. He replied that he knew nothing certain . . . . Holkar had many . . . . at Subbulghur to which no person was admitted, that the result of these conferences was the seizure and plunder of Ambajee and he therefore supposed that the present article might also have reference to him.

3. Nothing farther has been done by the Durbar in regard to these propositions nor have I had as yet an opportunity of making enquiries into the purport of some of the articles which appears to be rendered purposely obscure. I shall however use every endeavour to obtain the necessary information on these points.

4. The Nagpur Vakeels have communicated to this Durbar the demands made upon the Rajah by Holkar as stated in Mr. Jenkin's address to your Lordship No. 5 and have been desired by Sindhia to encourage their master to resist them. The Rajah himself has also I understand written letters to Sindhia and his Ministers on the same subject, and a letter was, I understand, received from Holkar by Sindhia which stated his confidence that from the friendship which existed between them he (Sindhia) would not interfere in any plan which he (Holkar) might form to recover a part of the heavy losses he had suffered in the war with the British Government, but added, that if he should be disappointed in this confidence, a quarrel must ensue.

5. It may be only necessary to remark upon these circumstances that whilst they are entirely subversive of the proposed engagements between Sindhia and Holkar, in their principal objects they serve also to evince how little is to be apprehended from such a compact if actually formed between parties so disposed towards each other.

Translation from Persian translation of a Marrattah copy of the propositions made by Jeswant Rao Holkar to Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

1. His Highness the Peshwa is our Sovereign and we are his servants let us therefore continue like our ancestors to obey his orders.

2. Let us keep on friendly terms with the Boonslah and other Sardars of the Peshwa and let us consult with them on all occasions.

3. Let the agreement which passed between us at Subbulghur under the sanction of our oaths be firmly abided by and let not the terms of the friendship which existed between our ancestors be departed from.

4. Any officers or aumils of either party who may proceed into the country of the other with a force, will take the greatest care to preserve the country. Should they contrary to the orders of their master exact any money from the country, their master will account for it.

5. Should any new enterprize be contemplated it shall be carried on by mutual consultation.

6. That our friendship may be preserved, and doubts between us be done away, let neither party endeavour to tamper with the army of the other, and should any Sardar quit the service of either party, let him not be retained by the other.

7. The money collected by Meer Khan from the Mohauls of Sadoura and other the five Mohauls shall be repaid to Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

8. Let the money which may have been collected by the Soobahdar of one party from the Mohauls of the other since the settlement of differences took place at Subbulghur be accounted for mutually.

9. Let a respectable Vakeel from each party attend the Durbar of the other, who may by his being a well-wisher of both, so act as to prevent disputes or doubts arising in either party, let the tribute from the other Rajahs and wealthy chiefs unconnected with us as the Gaikwar and others remain in the hands of those who have been accustomed to collect them. In this we have no concern. Should however it so happen that any new arrangement in regard to them should be proposed let it be prosecuted by our joint council and consent.

10. If any of the ministers or aumils of either party should treacherously seek the protection of the other let him not be protected but let him be delivered over to the state he belongs to or if such person should be a man of rank let the matter of dispute be fairly enquired into and adjusted.

11. Let the tributes from Jaipore and Jodhpore continue to be collected as they were in the time of our ancestors. You (Sindhia) will not create any disturbance in the country of Jaipore nor shall Holkar interfere in the country of Marwar (Jodhpur). Let these clever propositions be well considered and answer sent to them.

Letter No. 12.—This is an enclosure to the letter addressed to the Governor-General by Mercer under date 15th January. Mercer reports that the troops of Sindhia were clamouring for pay and keeping him virtually in a sort of personal confinement. Sindhia's revenue had dwindled to 70 lacs from a crore and a half. Since Holkar claims half of Sindhia's gain in Bhopal, Sindhia has proposed that Seoni and Hoshangabad

पोतदार

might go to the Bhonsla, he himself should have Islamnagar and have six lacs and the rest of the country to be retained by the Nawab Vazir Mohammed Khan. The troops of Nana Sahib had come very near Sindhia's Camp in order to conduct a joint operation for the occupation of Chanderi by Nana Sahib to which Sindhia had agreed.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp on the bank of the Dussan river, the 13th January 1808.

SIR,

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has made no movement since my address to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo.

2. He has been principally employed in making up sum for the payment of his troops, which however, I understand, is not nearly completed to the amount required, and he is consequently daily held in a sort of personal confinement by their clamours. This mode of enforcing payment of their demands called Dherna used formerly to be exercised by the Sardars upon the ministers only and the Maharaja's person was held inviolable but since the succession of Anna Sicca Navis from the Durbar their remains no person of sufficient responsibility and influence from whose confinement the Sirdars could reasonably expect to gain their objects in this measure.

3. The difficulties under which His Highness labours in the payment of his troops are not likely to be removed effectually by the petty exactions which he may be enabled to make in this quarter, and still less by any increase of resources from his possessions. The estimated product of the whole of his countries for the current year lately delivered to the Maharaja by the revenue officers of the Durbar amounted only to seventy lacs of rupees. When His Highness expressed his surprise at this rapid decrease in the revenues of countries which were nominally valued at a crore and a half of rupees, he was answered that owing to the several provinces having been so repeatedly plundered either by his own troops or those of Holkar, few of them produced half the revenue they were capable of, and that a further decrease might be expected from a continuance of the same causes, and from the instability of the Aumils.

4. The propositions of Holkar remain still unanswered although Holkar continues to urge the ratification of them, and has positively declared that he will enforce his claim to a share in the conquests Sindhia is making in the Bhopal country in conformity to the ancient contract of their families. This measure it is said has had much weight in occasioning a serious charge in Sindhia's views in respect to this country, and that he is now with some degree of sincerity negotiating with Vazir Mohammed Khan the manager of Bhopal on the following terms; that Hoshangabad and

Seoni to the south ward of the Nerbudda River should remain in the possession of the Nagpur Rajah, that he himself should retain the fort of Islamnagar, and that the remainder of the Bhopal country should be continued in the hands of Vazir Mohammed Khan on his paying a sum of money which is stated to be six lacs of rupees. The payment of this amount however will not without much difficulty be obtained from Vazir Mohammed Khan.

5. The troops of Nana Sahib stated by the late dispatches of Mr. Jenkins to your Lordship to have marched towards this quarter have arrived within a few marches of this camp. Their object is to support an engagement entered into by Sindhia through Vinkoji Pidree the Nana's agent to put Nana Sahib in possession of the small state of Chanderi on the borders of Bundelkhand, at present in a state of confusion and anarchy for the sum of five lacs of rupees a great part of which has, I understand, been paid. No measures have however been as yet taken by Sindhia to fulfil this engagement, nor has any Sardar been appointed on his part to co-operate with Nana Sahib's troops. The only step which has been taken as far as I can learn with a view to this arrangement has been a demand from Sindhia upon the Chanderi Rajah of five lacs of rupees on account of his having on a former occasion, it is asserted, joined Karim Khan Pindarrah in plundering some parts of Sindhia's country. Upon this demand, which the Raja I fancy, has not the means of complying with, the attack of his country will probably be grounded.

Letter No. 13.—Mercer reports the discussions he had with Sindhia and his ministers regarding the Saranjamy lands, the lands of Vinchoor Jagirdar, etc. He refused to take an active interest in the matter of Pratinidhi of the Peshwa because the Pratinidhi happened to be his friend. The disputes between Jaipur and Jodhpur had been going on for some time. Jaipur Rajah supported the claim of Dhokul Singh for Jaipur. The treacherous murder of Dhokul Singh's agents in the Camp of Meer Khan had ended in the occupation of Nagore by Meer Khan.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The 18th April 1808.

MY LORD,

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 2nd instant.

2. The Durbar having found means by a partial payment to some of the Sirdars to relieve the Maharaja from the state of restraint in which he had been by the troops, I was enabled to pay my visit to Baboo Rao Angria on the 9th instant accompanied by the gentlemen attached to the Residency. I was received with much civility and attention, and after receiving the usual presents, before taking leave, Baboo Rao expressed his gratitude to the British Government for the friendly assistance given to him in the affairs of Colabah and his hopes that this friendship would be continued to him, I replied that the Government would be always well disposed to show him acts of friendship both on his own account and from the relation in which he stood to the Peshwa and Maharaja Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

3. On the 6th I also took the first opportunity that offered of waiting upon the Maharajah at the Durbar. After some general conversation I acquainted Sindhia with the complaints that had been made by the Court of Poona respecting His Highness's unauthorized demands on the Saranjamy lands of the Poona state in Malwa, and communicated the appeal which had been made to your Lordship's mediation under the treaties of Bassien and Serjianjangaon to support the rights of the Peshwah which had been violated by those demands. I said that your Lordship was confident that His Highness would see the great impropriety of these proceedings and the necessity there was of satisfying those who had already paid money on these demands as well as of abstaining from all such requisitions in future.

4. After some consultation between the Maharajah, Baboo Rao Angria, Gopal Rao Bhow and Anna Siccanaves, Gopal Rao replied on the part of His Highness that it was not the Maharaja's intention to attempt to justify the demands that had been made upon the persons holding Saranjamy lands on the part of the Peshwah but that on his wresting the pergunnahs which belonged to the Vinchore Jaghirdar and Rajah Bahadur from the Pindaries and delivering them over to these Chiefs they had willingly paid him a Nazaranah; that in the second year no demand had been made on the Vinchore man for these pergunnahs but that a sum had been received from him on the promise of the Maharajah to put him in possession of certain lands in the Gwalior country including the pergunnah of Aonchar as the Maharajah must be at considerable expenses in reducing some of the places in the hands of the Zamindars particularly the Fort of Beeturwar; that a sum had been taken from Rajah Bahadur on account of old balances upon account between him and Sindhia's Government; that the pergunnah of Nyaserai, Kalubagh and Malhargarh had been taken from Mohammed Shah Khan who commanded Meer Khan's Brigade and delivered over to the Aodekur in consequence of which he had also paid a Nazrana; that the Maharajah's troops had been employed in settling several refractory Zamindaries in the Serinjamy of the

Neohgaumkur; and that the pergunnah of Shajanpoor had been also taken from Karim Khan and delivered to the Powar who had paid something in compensation. The principal cause, however, of these demands Gopal Rao added had been the extreme distress of the Maharajah's troops from want of pay, and that they would not be recurred. I replied that it was further necessary that some means should be used to satisfy those by whom the money had been paid and that in reference to what Gopal Rao Bhau had said I had been also instructed to represent to His Highness the undoubted right which the Vinchore Jagirdar appeared to have to the pergunnah of Aonchar and to get from His Highness the necessary orders for the delivery of it. Anna Siccanavis said that the necessary orders had been already delivered to the Vinchore Vakeel who would also receive the collections from the Pergunnah from the date of the order should any delay take place in his getting possession in lieu of money he had paid and that the Maharaja would do everything in his power to settle these matters to my satisfactions as it was equally his wish to please the Peshwa and the British Government. No notice was taken in the course of this conversation of any claim Sindhia might have upon these people from his having been engaged in the business of the Poona state, as stated in his letter.

5. His Highness then said that he had been earnestly solicited by the friends of Prati Nidhi's a relation of the Peshwa's and who had fallen under the Peshwa's displeasure to intercede in his favour and to interest the British Government also in his belief. That he had himself written to the Peshwah on the subject and that he wished me to write to the Resident at Poona to solicit his good offices in favour of Phirtee Nidhi. I replied that this was a business in which I could no measure interfere, that I knew that applications had been made from various quarters in favour of Phirtee Niddee, and that the British Resident had not appeared to have interfered in the matter and that I could not recommend a business of this nature to his attention. His Highness asked if I could mention the subject to your Lordship. I answered that it was my duty to report to your Lordship any conversation of the nature which now took place with His Highness, but that I could not give him the slightest hopes that your Lordship would be inclined to interfere in it as His Highness must be well aware of the principle to which it was your Lordship's resolution to adhere, nor to interfere in the internal concerns of any state in friendship with the Government. Nothing more was said on this subject and I soon after took my leave.

6. I shall send for such of the Vakeels as may be now in Camp of the parties holding seranjamy lands from the Poona state in this quarter and shall have the honour in a future dispatch to submit to your Lordship the result of my conference with them and of any further communications which it may be necessary to make to the Durbar towards a final adjustment of the subject.

7. The contest between the Rajahs of Jaipore and Jodhpore as far as regards the support given by the former to the claims of Dhokul Singh for the Raja of Jodhpore, appears to have been concluded for the present by a most horrid act of treachery on the part of Meer Khan. Seway Singh the manager of Dhokul Singh's affairs after a considerable time spent in negotiations with Meer Khan for his retiring from Nagore, had under the most solemn oaths and assurances of friendship and safety visited Meer Khan in his Camp attended by the principals, Thakoors and Sirdars who were adherents of Dhokul Singh. The whole party was surrounded and murdered in Meer Khan's tent. Meer Khan had in consequence obtained possession of Nagore but the persons of Dhokul Singh had been previously carried off by his attendants and he has arrived in safety in the Bikaner Country.

8. Serjee Rao Ghatgay had joined with his party the Brigade under Heera Singh in the Mewar country and had fallen in with the force under Ambajee near Chitore. Ambajee attacked Serjee Rao's party and defeated it and Serjee Rao himself fled towards Jawud. No material impression, however, appears to have been made on the Brigade which was retiring from the Mewar country but, as both Serjee Rao and Heera Singh had offered their services to Holkar orders have been sent from this Durbar to all Sindhia's officers in that quarter to assist Ambajee and to attack Serjee Rao and Heera Singh should they attempt to join Holkar without any apprehension from the near relation in which the former stood to the Maharajah.

Letter No. 14.—Mercer handed over the charge of the Residency to Elphinstone on 29th May 1808.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 29th May 1808.

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day delivered over charge of this Residency to the Hon'ble Mr. Elphinstone.

Letter No. 15.—This is an enclosure to Elphinstone's letter to Jenkins dated 29th May. He reports to the Governor-General on the basis of Akhbars that Mahipat Ram had arrived in the Camp of Holkar, who had given him a civil reception.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's camp on the bank of the Betwa river, the 29th May 1808.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I arrived in this Camp on the 22nd instant. Dowlat Rao Sindhia was prevented seeing me till yesterday by a disturbance among his troops.

I had yesterday the honour to attend the Durbar and presented your Lordship's letter to the Maharajah. No conversation took place at this meeting.

The Army marched here four days ago and it was understood that it would canton here during the rains. It is now reported that the Maharajah will march tomorrow in a westerly direction but I have no information regarding his ultimate object.

The last Akhbars from Holkar's Army dated the 18th instant mention Mahipat Ram's having arrived in the camp of that Chieftain slightly attended. Holkar had given him a civil reception though he seemed desirous to avoid the meeting.

Letter No. 16.—This day Elphinstone handed over to Lt. R. Close as Resident with Sindhia and proceeded to Delhi.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp at Thana, the 11th July 1808.

I have the honour to acquaint you that I have received orders to proceed immediately to Delhi. I have accordingly this day delivered over charge of this Residency to Lieutenant Close who has been appointed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to that duty.

Letter No. 17.—This is an enclosure to Elphinstone's letter to Colonel Close dated the 16th July. Elphinstone reports that the troops of the Sindhia were mutinous owing to arrears of pay and some had deserted him. The Prime Minister Babuji Angaria could not manage the affairs very well. The ministers were quarrelling among themselves. The agents of Sindhia had interfered in the affairs of the Rajput states of Jaipur and Jodhpur. "Holkar has no Maratha army and his regulars are probably as yet inferior to Sindhia's." His army in co-operation with the Bhonsla's was fully successful but at the end Vazir Mohammed Khan the Manager of Bhopal, called in the Pindaries, forced the Marathas to retreat, and recovered portions of the lost territory. The

Governor-General is reminded of the Sindhia's request that he (G. G.) might intercede on behalf of the Pratinidhi with the Peshwa.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The 5th July 1808.

When I had last the honour to address your Lordship, Dowlat Rao Sindhia had just been free from restraint under which he was put by some troops that mutinied for pay. The removal of the troops was effected by His Highness's calling up some of his regular Battalions for the protection of his tents but such was the discontent created by this measure, that the whole of the mutineers immediately quitted the camp with the avowed intention of returning to the Deccan and leaving his service for ever. They amounted to be about three thousand Horse, the greater part of them consisted of a plundering Corps called the Barra Bye who only differ from Pindaries in their receiving regular pay; they still remain near the Betwa whence they send out parties and plunder the country in all directions, a negotiation for their return has been on foot ever since they left the camp. Sindhia has not yet been able to satisfy them but as they have not marched to the Deccan it is probable they will be prevailed on to rejoin the army.

After the separation of this party some other Maratha Chiefs became clamorous for their arrears and no satisfaction being given them they proceeded to prevent the Maharajah quitting his tents for even eating; the conduct of the principal of them Bhagwant Rao Byse was such as greatly to exasperate Sindhia who ordered a considerable payment to be made them immediately and at the same time desired some Battalions of Infantry and some Cavalry to march against them. Bhagwant Rao Byse prepared to resist the force that was sent against him and gave out that he believed he had more partisans in the camp than Sindhia. This state of things excited much alarm in camp, all the shops were shut and troops were posted to protect the bazars and Sindhia's tent. At last the mutineers marched off for the Deccan without any attempt being made to molest them. They had endeavoured to prevail on the Chiefs of the party which formerly separated to join them in resisting Sindhia but those Chiefs refused to join alleging that Bhagwant Rao had received his pay separately and had no common cause with those who had received nothing.

The distress and consequently the mutinous spirit of the troops is greatly increased by the present state of the ministry. Angria who is the nominal prime minister is quite inexperienced in the affairs of this Government. He is not known to the troops and has neither credit among the bankers nor funds of his own.

He is also extremely distrusted by the old ministers who are accused with great appearance of truth of augmenting the distresses of the Army on purpose to increase Angria's embarrassments. They are led to this not only by their desire to recover the direction of affairs, but by the fear that if Angria should be firmly established in office he would put in execution the plans of extorting money from the ministers which he formerly proposed to the Maharajah. Sindhia is very desirous to bring about a cordial co-operation between his uncle and his old ministers but his exertions have failed entirely and they may all be considered as decidedly hostile to Angria except Gopal Rao Bhow who appears to have attached himself to present Minister's party. Angria is himself greatly distressed for money; he has long since exhausted all his resources and mortgaged his patrimony of Colaba and he has incurred fresh expenses by bringing a large body of troops with him. They are now much in arrears and are very clamorous for their money. Many of them have quitted him and 300 of them went off with Bhagwant Rao Byse.

Ambajee's influence is at present very low; he has greatly displeased the Maharajah by declining to comply with His Highness's demands for money and by his want of co-operation with Bappoo Sindhia. It seems to be Sindhia's intention to deprive Ambajee of all the countries now under him except Nurwar Sunnuds for the management of Mewar are said to have been already sold to Bappoo Sindhia for 3½ lacs of rupees. Ambajee was lately joined by his brother Bala Rao after which he again attacked Serjee Rao Ghatka and Heera Singh but received a severe check. After this success Serjee Rao proceeded to the Jaipore frontier and joined the army under Bappoo Sindhia.

Bappoo Sindhia entered the Jaipore territory about the end of May but was forced by the threats of Holkar and perhaps by the strength of the Jaipore army to retire into Ajmer. About the middle of last month Bappoo Sindhia again entered Jaipore and being reinforced by Serjee Rao, Heera Singh engaged the Jaipore Army under Roy Chand Singh. The action is said to have been well contested. It was chiefly maintained on Sindhia's side by Baptiste and the regular Infantry. Heera Singh Commandant was killed in the battle. Chand Singh was entirely defeated with the loss of all his guns, baggage and bazars. Chand Singh with some of his troops retired into Tora where he is besieged by Bappoo Sindhia the rest of the Army dispersed and retired towards the capital.

After the victory a dispute arose between Bappoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao about the division of the plunder; it terminated in Serjee Rao's separating from the Army with twelve of the captured guns.

The accounts of this victory reached Sindhia on the 2nd of this month, he had made one march from the Baitwa and was understood to intend halting some time near Cutchnare Seraee for the purpose of enforcing his hitherto unsuccessful demands on the

Raggogur country. Since he received intelligence of Bappoo Sindhia's success he has made four marches to this place and he professes an intention of continuing his march to Soopoor near the Chumbul.

The levity and want of system which characterize the court render it uncertain whether this intention will be adhered to though it is obvious that nothing but such a step properly followed up can enable Sindhia to profit by his recent success and to recover his influence among the Rajput states. The Rajah of Jaipore though defeated is far from being subdued, he is busied in preparing for the defence of his capital and at the same time in assembling an army to meet the Maratta in the field, he has called on the Shekoottee Chiefs and his other allies and dependants to assist him and has applied for aid to Meer Khan and Holkar. Meer Khan has delivered over Nagore to Rajah Man Singh, he has defeated the son of Sewaee Singh, who lately returned with a force from Bikaner, and has marched in the direction of Jaipore leaving about 3,000 horse and foot to assist the Jodhpore Rajah. Holkar will no doubt renew his threats and they together with the arrival of Meer Khan and the separation of Serjee Rao will probably intimidate Bappoo Sindhia and prevent his further progress.

Sindhia's march to the Chumbul would place him within reach to reinforce Bappoo Sindhia if Meer Khan joined the Jaipore Rajah. It would probably prevent Holkar's interference in the affairs of Jaipore or if it did not it would afford a good opportunity of deciding the disputes between the two states by an appeal to arms.

Holkar has some time since discharged all his Maratha horse and occupied himself entirely in casting guns, in training regular troops and cavalry and in arranging his finances. In this he has acted wisely for though the regular troops and artillery are the weakest part of a native army when opposed to us, it is by those branches alone that all battles among themselves are decided. I do not know what progress Holkar is making in the points to which he has turned his attention but from his known talents and activity I conclude that he is improving and that if he has time he will excite all the other native powers.

On the other hand Sindhia's power has for a long time been on the decline. Every year takes something from his resources, his military power and his influence among foreign states. So that unless some change takes place in the conduct of one or other of the two Durbars or in the general state of India, Sindhia may be expected in the course of a few years to fall without a struggle into Holkar's hands.

It is not probable that Sindhia will ever have a better opportunity than the present of effecting a change in his favour. He has a considerable advantage in his late victory, Holkar has no Maratha army and his regulars are probably as yet inferior to Sindhia's.

His conduct in the late disputes between Jodhpore and Jaipore has lowered his character among the Rajpoots. Meer Khan seems at present to have separated his interests from those of Jeswant Rao and the rebellion of Dadu Khan who has seized the greater part of his possessions in the Deccan place Holkar in a situation in which nothing but the superiority of his personal character could give him a prospect of maintaining of himself against Sindhia, should the latter conduct himself according to the plainest dictates of commonsense.

Should Sindhia move towards the Chumbul he intends to profit from his situation by levying money on Soopoor and the neighbouring country, by obliging Ambajee's Managers to give up Bubbulgarh and by intimidating Ambajee's brother Khandojee the Amil of Nurwar and forcing him to pay a large sum of money to the Government.

Sindhia has left some troops to assist the Rajah of Berar in the conquest of Bhopal the combined force of those chiefs had at most entirely subdued the country, when the manager Vizeer Mohammed Khan called in the Pindaries, forced the Marathas to retreat and made considerable progress in recovering the country. Sindhia's troops with the Rajah of Berar's Army are few, they are illpaid and mutinous; it is not improbable that the failure of this joint attack may show the Rajah of Berar that his chance of success would be much greater if he would lay out the large subsidies he gives to this Government in paying his own troops.

Some time after I last wrote to your Lordship, Sindhia rteurned my visit and made the usual presents. I have since accompanied him once on a hunting party and waited on him once at his tent. On the last occasion after some common conversation His Highness asked me what I thought of Holkar's conduct with respect to Mahipat Ram and what Holkar had replied to your Lordship's request that he might be delivered up. I said that I had not heard what Holkar's answer was but that I conjectured he would find pretences for retaining Mahipat Ram till he could get all his money from him and would then either dismiss him or deliver him up.

His Highness then began a very long discussion respecting the commutation of Raja Baye's Jageer. I shall not take up your Lordship's time with the details as every argument that had been brought forward from the time when Mr. Mercer first introduced the subject was renewed and insisted on, Sindhia spoke a good deal himself. He insisted on his right to three lacks of cash in lieu of three lacks of Jageer, contested our right to introduce the regulations in the Jagirs and endeavoured to represent the commutation as a concession on his part. The ministers talked much of the inconvenience the Government was put to by the delay in fixing the sum they were to receive which they said prevented the Bankers advancing money on the Jageers for the present Hindoo year and concluded by desiring that I would promise either to produce a decision on the amount to be paid in 25 days or to agree at the end of that period to the Maharajah's demand for three lacks in cash. This I positively refused and the affair remained unsettled as before.

Letter No. 18.—This forms the enclosure to Close's letter to Jenkins, dated 22nd August. In the enclosure Close reports that no accommodation had been effected between the Rajahs of Jaipur and Jodhpur, and that the troops of Sindhia and Serjee Rao as also of Meer Khan had been operating in Jaipur territory. There was no amity subsisting between Bappoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao Ghatgay. Owing to the most deplorable financial condition of Sindhia's Government it had been proposed that the Government should be managed by the Sindhia himself, Babooji Angria, Annaji and Bapoo Chitnis. Karim and Chitoo, Chiefs of the Pindaries who had been treacherously seized some time back had been imprisoned by Sindhia and sent to the fort of Gwalior under confinement.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Shahabad, the 20th August 1808.

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 2nd instant since which period no step has been taken by Dowlat Rao Sindhia to enable Bapoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao more effectually to enforce their demands on the Rajah of Jaipur. Notwithstanding the powerful motives by which it might be supposed that Sindhia would be influenced arising from the negotiations and near approach to Jaipore of Meer Khan with a considerable force, the favourable disposition of Rajah Man Singh of Jodhpore who has, however, expresses a doubt of Sindhia's sincerity which can only be removed by his advance and the earnest solicitation of his own officers in the Jaipore territory who represent in strong terms the beneficial effects which such a movement would produce.

A principal reason for this delay, I imagine to be, the apprehension that Holkar would by Sindhia's advance be led to take part in the dispute as although the present reduced state of that Chief's strength appears to be well known the vigor and energy of his character is also duly appreciated.

Sindhia's anxiety on this head as well as regarding Holkar encouragement of Meer Khan is evinced by his holding out to him hopes of his ratification. Of the treaty proposed by Holkar, and communicated to your Lordship in Mr. Mercer's dispatch of the 11th December last year, promises have been made that Ram Chand Appa, the Vakeel to whom Holkar delivered that Treaty, shall be sent with it as soon as possible and for the purpose of adjusting all differences between the two Durbars.

A course of alarm to the present ministers may likewise be drawn from the prospect which a movement towards Jaipore would open of Serjee Rao's being thus enabled to join this army or at least of establishing his influence in Sindhia's council. In other respects the present period appears favourable as the clamours of the troops have been silenced by a late discharge of some of their arrears but which in the course of a few months, it is probable, will again break out. Advantage is taken of the latter circumstance to select a body of troops under the command of Appa Khandia which, it is given out, he detached to the southward for the purpose of opposing Vazir Mohammed Khan who after plundering the districts of Ashtee and Sujalpore, went up Bhopal, has lately carried his depredations into the Radgur district. The fort of that name was taken possession of by this army towards the end of 1807, but appears to have been left in a weak state of defence on Sindhia's marching from that part of the country.

This detachment is now collecting at a short distance from the army, and its march is said to have been retarded only by the festival of the Janmashtami, the celebration of which is now nearly concluded.

The same spirit of disunion which I in a former dispatch stated to your Lordship, continues to actuate the different officers in command of the army in Jaipore. Letters daily arrive from Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Bapoo Sindhia accusing each other as the cause of their necessities and the slow progress of the war in which they are engaged. Serjee Rao has been compelled by desertions from his army and other difficulties to retire from his advanced position to the borders of Ajmer. Bappoo Sindhia after levying a contribution of 80,000 rupees on Bejaywar left that fort and proceeded to Nowaee which he has taken, he is now occupied in the siege of Iellayurn.

The Jaipore Durbar is not dismayed but I do not hear of any force being sent to oppose the advance of Sindhia's army. Troops have been assembled and measures have been taken to render the infantry efficient by supplying it with guns and ammunition.

Meer Khan has approached to Sambre and was said to have intended entering Jaipore with a small party, but was diverted from this design by his apprehension that he might meet with a similar reception to that which he had before given to Siwaee Singh. He has therefore continued with his army and is negotiating for money with Rajah Jugget Singh, who has sent him a lac of rupees from Jaipore but is reluctant to advance anything further till he is fully convinced of Meer Khan's disposition to render him assistance. Meer Khan in the meantime keeps on terms with all parties, he tells the Jaipore Rajah to depend on his co-operation, he writes to Bapoo Sindhia at one time to leave the Jaipore country and that he will arrange a settlement of his just demands, and at another that he will join with him in obliging Rajah Jugget Singh to pay tribute, he assures Holkar also of his fidelity and Sindhia of his attachment.

The supposition appears consistent with this artful conduct that his ultimate object is not to retard Sindhia's operations unless in as far as it may be found requisite to enable him to procure from the Jaipore Rajah a considerable payment. Sindhia continues to be importuned on the subject of Serjee Rao's recall. His Highness however expressed his conviction that the only means to remedy the inefficiency and weakness of his Government and to augment his authority and influence would be the administration of his affairs by himself, Angria his uncle, Annajee and Bapoo Chitnavis. They all at His Highness's desire assembled in his tent at a time appointed on the 13th instant and there entered into an engagement that they would unite in their exertions to support the dignity and power of his Government. There is, however, little reason to imagine there was much sincerity in this proceeding. Angria from his want of resources feels his weakness and is desirous to establish his influence and ascendancy through the assistance of Serjee Rao who is in close correspondence with him. The sole conduct of affairs remains as usual vested in the hands of Annajee the only person who has credit, sufficient to support the expenses of the Government.

A few only of the Bara Byes have as yet been prevailed on to rejoin this army. I understand an offer of employment has lately been made to them by Holkar who is also about to retain in his service two separate detachments that have left this camp one of which is commanded by Bugwant Rao Byse. A remonstrance has been made by this Durbar on the impropriety of his thus encouraging the desertion of the troops.

Karim and Cheetoo, Chiefs of the two principal bodies of Pindaries and who were some time ago treacherously seized and imprisoned by Sindhia have lately been sent under confinement to the fort of Gwalior to obviate all danger from their intrigues in this Camp.

Nothing further has transpired since the 14th instant respecting the communications which I had the honour to make for your Lordship's information to the Secretary in the Political Department.

Letter No. 19—Close reports the continuance of disturbed condition of Rajput states, quarrels between the Sardars of the Sindhia operating in Rajputana, the designs of Holkar to participate in the Rajputana affairs and claim parts of Raghogarh territory, and Wazir Mohammed Khan's efforts to detach Sindhia from Bhonsla in their designs on Bhopal.

From—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(An enclosure to his letter to Jenkins, dated 17th September 1808).

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 20th ultimo

Little progress has since been made by the Government in the war in which it is engaged and Bapoojee Sindhia is at present the only Sirdar employed in conducting it.

In a former dispatch I stated that Serjee Rao had separated from Sindhia's Army and retired to the borders of the province of Ajmer; he there commenced plundering Balla Rao Inglia's territory, which obliged the latter to march out to oppose him, the two armies were encamped in presence of each other for a few days during which some skirmishes took place unattended with any decisive effect.

At length, however, they moved out to engage, the consequence of which was Balla Rao's retiring to Ajmer, he was pursued by Serjee Rao, who at this time wrote to Sindhia in confidence of his being enabled to exact a contribution when he stated it as his intention to rejoin Bapoo Sindhia.

Shortly after however Balla Rao Inglia again moved out against him with a body of horse and forced him to retreat to the vicinity of Kishangarh. Ghatgay has on different occasions written to Sindhia excusing himself on account of his necessities for deserting Bapoo Sindhia and praying for relief. No displeasure seems to have been expressed by Sindhia but on the contrary he has been encouraged to hope for assistance and as a token of Sindhia's regard a dress of honour with present have been sent to him.

Baptiste likewise set out some time ago from Bapoo Sindhia's Camp to return to this army accompanied by Gomaji, brother of Bapoo Sindhia; he is accompanied only by a few hundred horse and is expected in this Camp in a very few days.

When accounts of his intention first arrived, it did not meet with the approbation of the Ministers here, it was afterwards said that he was charged with proposals from Jaipore and orders were sent to him to proceed with expedition.

Vakeels had been deputed to him by Rajah Jugget Singh while he continued with the Army to the northward, but negotiations do not appear to have been entered into by him.

Meer Khan is stated to continue his demands for money on the Rajah of Jaipore, not satisfied by the offers that have been made to him and which have been liberal.

The Rajah now perfectly sensible that he cannot expect assistance from Meer Khan is anxious to prevail on him to leave his dominions for which purpose these offers have been made to him.

This circumstance probably contributed to a proposal which has been made by Rajah Jugget Singh to Zalim Singh Manager of Herowtee on the Cota country that he should assume the office of mediator and use his endeavours to bring his difference with Dowlat Rao Sindhia to an amicable settlement.

An offer to this effect has been accordingly made on the part of Zalim Singh in conjunction with Rajah Ambajee Inglia and Lala Bullal subject of this Government who has resided for a considerable time past in Kota.

The Ministers of this Durbar appear perfectly disposed to coincide in any equitable arrangement which may be proposed by those persons and have fixed on Fakirjee as a fit person to attend Zalim Singh and concert proper measures with him on the part of Sindhia.

A wish was entertained that Zalim Singh should repair to fort of Shahabad which is about five miles from the present encampment of this army for the convenience as it was said of the Ministers who could thus in person conduct the negotiation, but this he declined and I have understood that he has good reason to be cautious of exposing himself so near Sindhia's Army. He is however immediately to return to Kota from the Udaipore country where he has been for some time engaged in arranging the disputes which had arisen between the Ranah and the several Sirdars of that state.

Though these proposals for negotiation were made and acceded to some time ago, all further measures, in the usual habit of procrastination, are deferred till after the celebration of the Deshara which takes place about a fortnight hence.

Since the 13th ultimo on which I have apprized your Lordship that an appearance of unanimity took place between the Ministers at this Durbar, Angaria and Anna have acted with greater degree of cordiality than usual, the necessities of the former have been in some measure relieved but not so much so as by any means to answer his expectations, he has apparently thrown off all connections with Serjee Rao Ghatgay and now unites with Anna in his recommendation of Ambajee's recall to power.

This person has for a considerable time remained in Mewar making collections in that province and assisting the Rajah in the management of his affairs. On the late proposal being made from Jaipore he came forward with professions of his zeal for Sindhia's service and sent a respectable agent to the Durbar to conduct his affairs and use his endeavours to effect his reinstatement. Though he has a powerful party in his favour here the Maharaja himself seems decidedly adverse to him, and though he accepts of his mediation jointly with Zalim Singh as a remedy for the disorders of his Government, he is by no means disposed to accede to any proposal which may have for its object Ambajee's return to this Camp.

Jeswant Rao Holkar's Vakeel has made repeated applications for the dispatch of the ratified treaty to his master ; Sindhia at first brought forward frivolous excuses for the delay which had occurred in its transmission but at length complained that Holkar could not be supposed to entertain serious intentions of executing the stipulations of it seeing that he had already in more instances than one acted in direct violation of them.

His Highness has, however, been recommended to send Ram Chand Appa to Holkar's Camp where even though he should not accomplish the object so much wished for by Holkar he may be of use in watching his motions and maintaining a friendly intercourse; the Ministers have given it as their opinion that a cordiality of this nature should be kept up but are very averse to the formation of any more intimate connection between the two states.

Holkar observes with an eye of jealousy any progress made by Sindhia towards an adjustment of his differences with the Jaipore state, and some time ago wrote to the Rajah of that place to keep him informed of his proceedings that he may regulate his motions by them. He watches also the proceedings of this Durbar and mentioned his intention of marching apparently as a menace at a time when he expressed his solicitude for Ram Chand Appa's mission.

In a former dispatch I stated that Jeswant Rao had detached a body of Infantry to Mallundia, this took place when he was urged for assistance by the Rajah of Jaipore but no accounts have reached me of their having marched further.

Rao Chitterbajee applied for aid to him sometime ago and accused him of not having acted up to his engagements of supplying Rajah Jugget Singh with troops. Holkar on this wrote to Meer Khan to afford some assistance to the Rajah but though he professes his dependence upon Holkar, Meer Khan in his present situation has acted independently of his authority. In pursuance of his intention to put his troops in motion Holkar talks of forming a detachment of Ratlam after the Dashera for the avowed purpose of suppressing the rebellion headed by Dadun Khan. A part of this force is to consist of the troops with Mahipat Ram commanded by Mohammed Raza Khan and orders have been given for a supply of cash to be applied to the purpose of paying these troops.

A part of the force thus collected, it is reported, will march into the Raghogarh country to support some claims which Holkar advances in that territory. I have not been as successful as I could have wished in my endeavours to procure a detailed statement of Holkar's force, but from the accounts I have received I conceive it may be estimated at 10,000 or 12,000 men of which 4,000 may be Infantry, his attention has been most particularly directed to the formation of his artillery and different statements which I have received concur in fixing it, at between 90 and 100 mounted guns of which but a few are of large calibre. He has for a short time past been attending to the increase of his Army by employing different Sirdars who have left this service and that of the Rajah of Berar.

Accounts have been received here of a partial success which has been gained over Vazeer Mohammed Khan's troops in the vicinity of Bhopal. Appa marched from this to the southward on the 7th instant but the Infantry of his detachment remains still encamped a short distance from the Army.

Vazir Mohammed Khan has been desirous to detach Sindhia from his connection with the Rajah of Berar and the conduct of this Government appeared at one time to afford ground for the supposition that the attainment of this object would not be difficult but the invasion of the Radgur District accompanied by expectations of further pecuniary aid from Nagpur have precluded all hopes of an adjustment of that nature and Vazeer Mohammed Khan has recalled his Vakeel from this durbar. Sindhia by his detention of the Vakeel however appears still desirous to keep up his hopes.

Letter No. 20.—This is an enclosure to the letter which R. Close wrote to Jenkins, dated 9th November 1808. Close reports the state of affairs in Rajputana. Zalim Singh Raja of Kota with Lala Ballal tried to negotiate for a peace by offering on behalf of Rajah Jagat Singh of Jaipur ten lacs to Sindhia, which apparently had not been accepted. Sindhia contemplated an attack on Shahpore state (in Mewar) which was too weak to resist, for meeting the financial needs of Baptiste. The Rajah of Shahpoor had complained of Sindhia's hostile intentions; Serji Rao Ghatgay and Ambaji Inglia had apparently been reconciled and wanted to make a joint effort for their "readmission into Sindhia's councils". The dispute between Man Singh and Dhokul Singh (the former the Chief and the latter the pretender to the throne of Jodhpur) was going on and Bikaner Rajah was coming towards the Chumbal. The contemplated joint invasion of Bhopal by the troops of Bhonsla and Sindhia had been held up.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Shahabad, the 7th November 1808.

Though the march of this Army to the northward has been agitated for some days no decision has as yet been come to, it appears however to be well understood as the most effectual mode of bringing to a favourable termination the negotiation with the Rajah of Jaipore; I have already had the honour to inform your

Lordship that this is carried on by Zalim Singh of Kota and Lala Ballal to whom the Jaipore Ministers have proposed that Rajah Jugget Singh shall as a final settlement of his demands pay to Dowlat Rao Sindhia a sum amounting to ten lacs of rupees which however has not yet been assented to, Sindhia's Army in the meantime continues to levy contributions in the Jaipore country and Chand Singh who commanded the Jaipore troops in the former engagement is now preparing again to oppose him.

Meer Khan having at length made an arrangement with that Government by which he was to receive seven lacs of rupees of which a considerable proportion has been paid him, and being called away in consequence of Jeswant Rao Holkar's present condition has left the Rajah more at liberty to direct his resources against this Government, and were he to collect resolution sufficient there is little reason to doubt that he would without much difficulty repulse the army at present under Bapoo Sindhia's command; Baptiste who returned to this Camp for the purpose of effecting some pecuniary arrangement for those troops, has hitherto failed in his endeavours. Sindhia however as the only means in his power of complying with his wishes proposed to assist him with troops and a competent proportion of artillery to attack the small state of Soopore promising, he should after its submission, receive it in Jaidad and this together with the tribute to be demanded from the Rajah of Boondi it was hoped would suffice for the maintenance of the Infantry under Baptiste's command. This unprincipled proposal of subjugating a friendly state incapable of resistance was however declined, but only from the conception that the revenue to be derived from it would not answer the purpose intended.

The Rajah of the small but ancient state of Soopore complained of Sindhia's hostile intentions, expressed his regret to find him thus disposed to oppress the weak, and said that he could not oppose him but must fly the country if violence was resorted to. The Rajah however appears not to have entirely neglected putting his forts in a posture of defence as far as his limited means would admit.

An apparent reconciliation, for it is difficult to suppose it sincere, has taken place lately between Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Ambajee Inglia; this has been effected through the means of Balla Rao, Ambajee's brother. After adjusting his differences with the latter Serjee Rao proceeded to Mewar and met Ambajee who is on his way to Kota. The object of this meeting appears to have been reconciled if possible the opposite interest which prevails with regard to them in the Durbar, and Sindhia does not now appear averse as he formerly was to Ambajee's return to this Camp; at the conversation which took place between Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Ambajee Inglia they seem to have agreed that they should mutually afford all the assistance in each other's power towards their readmission into Sindhia's councils; but it is contrary to past experience and to every reasonable expectation that two men of such opposite characters and in so different circumstances should ever be cordially united in the same system of affairs. Letters have been received by Sindhia from Serjee Rao Ghatgay expressive of his zeal for his service and pointing out the beneficial effects which would result to His Highness's Government were he permitted to direct his affairs, but although I believe His Highness to be favourably inclined towards him, yet there are so many difficulties opposed to Ghatka's reinstatement that he does not openly bring the subject forward.

Serjee Rao has been lately deserted by his Infantry commanded by Heera Singh, in which his Chief strength consisted; the latter it is thought suspected some treacherous design on Ghatka's part but his departure may also be accounted for by Serjee Rao's inability to maintain his troops. Heera Singh has acquiesced in an offer of re-employment made him by Man Singh Rajah of Jodhpore who still continues engaged in the dispute concerning Dhokul Singh, the legitimate heir or as some say the pretender to the Jodhpore Musnad.

In a former dispatch I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Himmat Singh and Zalim Singh, sons of the late Siwaee Singh, had fled the Bikaner whence they had procured assistance in Dhokul Singh's cause. The Jodhpore troops commanded by Anand Rao Bukshee in consequence marched against Surat Singh Rajah of Bikaner and came up with his army early in the commencement of October at the distance of about 30 miles from his capital; a few days were passed in skirmishes which at length brought on a general engagement which ended in the defeat of the Bikaner troops after an obstinate contest; the loss on both sides is said to have been considerable. Rajah Surat Singh I am informed has collected a few thousand men in the fort of Bikaner, having evacuated the open town and is using his endeavours to assemble another army and to procure assistance from the neighbouring states. He applied for this purpose to the Rajah of Jaipore who was unable to detach any of his troops but supplied him with ammunition of which he was in want.

Anand Rao Bukshee is now with about 12,000 men, according to my accounts, a short distance from Bikaner. He has proposed to Rajah Surat Singh as the basis upon accommodation with Jodhpore to dismiss Dhokul Singh's adherents, to evacuate the fort of Bailade and to join 5,000 of his troops with the Jodhpur Army, these terms do not appear to have been accepted but Vakeels have been sent from Bikaner to treat with Anand Rao in his camp.

I have had the honour to communicate to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone for your Lordship's information the state in which Jeswant Rao Holkar has been for some time past and the manner in which the affairs of that Chief have been in consequence conducted since the date of that dispatch. Accounts have reached me of Meer Khan's having left his army on the borders of Jaipore and set out with 1,000 horse for Sheergarh, a few miles from Kota, where his family have resided, whence it is stated as his intention to proceed to Holkar's Camp in a very few days.

Holkar's army has marched from Banpoora in the direction of the Chumbul; I have not ascertained what particular object his Ministers have in view but it is conjectured that they intend marching towards Indore while it is stated in some accounts received from their camp, that it is supposed the army will halt on the banks of that river.

The troops which left this for the purpose of opposing Vazir Mohammed Khan in conjunction with the Rajah of Berar's army, have not yet proceeded any very considerable distance on their march, a large body of Pindaries having been detached from Bhopal to ravage Sindhia's possession have deterred them from advancing. A reinforcement has in consequence been ordered to join Appah Khandia from hence and he has acquired a further increase to his detachment by the junction of a body of horse sent to him by Durjan Saul a Chief through whose territories his route lays Radgarh. This Government however evidently is not disposed at present to enter warmly into the scheme of the partition of Bhopal and the chief object in being at all engaged in it appears to be not so much the possession of that country as the means it gives of drawing money from the Treasury of Nagpur.

Accounts have lately reached Sindhia from the Rani of Dhar that with the assistance afforded her by a detachment of His Highness's troops in Malwa, commanded by Bhujang Rao and a force sent to her aid from Guzerat, she had overcome Mulhar Rao Coer who had usurped the chief authority in Dhar, whence he had now been obliged to fly with his adherents and that her own authority with that of her son had been re-established.

Mulhar Rao Coer had been assisted in his usurpation by Jeswant Rao Holkar, but probably to save appearance Sireepat Rao was re-employed in that service; it is now some time since he successfully attacked the fort of Dhar soon after however left the place defended only by a small garrison, which had enabled the Rani to recover it.

Letter No. 21.—This is an enclosure to his letter to Jenkins. Close reports that Sindhia's Army was in Shahpur (between Jaipur and Jodhpur) and bent on forcing the Rajah to pay a heavy amount, required to pay Bapuji Sindhia through the mediation of Baptiste.... Another small state, Omeetwara was to be attacked also. Jeswant Rao's affairs were in confusion.

and Meer Khan had left his camp....The ministers of Sindhia were apprehensive of the readmission of Ambajee Inglia and Serji Rao Ghatgay into the Councils of Sindhia.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The 25th November 1808.

Since I did myself the honour to address your Lordship on the 7th instant this Army has made four marches to Soopoor with the professed intention to attack the fort and arrived at this ground yesterday. To this measure Sindhia appears to have been encouraged by the movement of Holkar's Army to the southward and the present unsettled state of that Chieftain's affairs; Jeswant Rao Holkar's interference might justly have been expected when the subjection of Soopoor to this Government would have affected his interests immediately as it would of course occasion a discontinuance of the annual tribute which has been exacted by him exclusive of its contributing to the ascendancy of this Government.

On entering the Soopoor territory demands were made upon the Rajah with which it was known he had not the ability to comply; his Vakeel was also put under restraint from which he took an opportunity to escape to his master, the most perfect readiness is evinced on the part of the Rajah to acquiesce in the requisitions of this Government to a limited extent and probably as far as it is in his power, but at the same time he has provided for the last extremity by putting his fort in a posture of defence and has I am informed expressed his determination to hold out to the utmost of his ability.

On the arrival of another Vakeel in this Camp the negotiations assumed a more amicable appearance but since then the Army has taken up its present position on the northwest face of the fort of Soopoor which is most easily accessible, it possesses besides the advantages to Sindhia of a threatening posture to Jaipore and Jodhpore with which latter state my secret information acquaints me that this Government has it in view to come to a settlement when the present negotiation with Jaipore shall have been brought to an honourable termination, little progress has however as yet been made in the last mentioned affair. Vakeels are to be deputed from Jaipore for this purpose and hostilities though not suspended have been mitigated by orders to Sindhia's troops employed in that country, but this seems to have been equally a measure of policy directed by the mutinous and consequently inefficient state of the infantry, forming a chief part of the force under the command of Bapoojee Sindhia. They threatened to withdraw from the service and had marched to the southward and were only prevailed upon very lately to return by the promises made to them from hence and a partial discharge of their arrears through Baptiste who has continued in this Camp.

This officer is to superintend the meditated siege of Soopoor and has for that purpose ordered some additional Battalions from the province of Mewar to join the Army. Sunnuds have been granted to him for this province on its submission together with the Bundi tribute and the petty province of Omeetwara of which Rajegur is the capital and which has been hitherto and still continues to be independent of this Government. This cirmustance tends to corroborate the intelligence that a positive determination has been formed to subdue the Soopoor state, as however the object of Sindhia's present preparations is to realize an exorbitant tribute and the Rajah of Soopoor is desirous to effect an arrangement with him, he may yet find means to avert such a calamity. No plan for the conquest of Omeetwara has yet been brought to maturity. The pecuniary difficulties of the Government are the motives for these rapacious and unjust proceedings and should no obstacle be opposed to them these distresses may in this manner contribute progressively to the increase of Sindhia's resources and power.

Jeswant Rao Holkar has made no further march since my last address to your Lordship. A meeting took place between him and Meer Khan on the 8th instant; the arrival of the latter Chief although looked for with some anxiety has not been attended with the effects which were expected from its mutual jealousy arose between him and the other directors of Holkar's affairs which is said to have been the principal occasion of Meer Khan's having set out on his return to Sheergur, the residence of his family; the pretence alleged by himself for taking this step was to celebrate the late Moharram festival. He left Holkar's Camp on the 16th instant. Meer Khan, I am informed, wishes with Toolsa Bai to form a powerful Minister by the recall of Holkar's old servants who have been compelled by his violence to leave him and will probably return to Holkar's Camp shortly. Jeswant Rao Holkar continues much in the same state that he has been in for sometime past. It is generally believed that his army will continue its march to Mahaisur on the Nerbudda.

Fakeerjee Goreporah who was selected for the purpose of joining in the negotiation conducted by Zalim Singh has arrived at Kota. A material object of his journey is also to effect some arrangement with Rajah Ambajee Inglia relative to his proposed return to this Camp. In consequence of his late intercourse with Serjee Rao Ghatgay the ministers of this Durbar view Ambajee's conduct with suspicion and seem apprehensive that his return would also insolve that of Sarjee Rao, an event which in all probability would occasion their downfall. Sindhia continues to be urged on this point by the party in favour of Serjee Rao. His Highness declines for the present complying with their wishes but gives hopes that he will at a future period. Sadashiv Rao's nephew Anna and an officer in considerable estimation for his talents in conducting the affairs of Government, lately died in this camp.

Letter No. 22.—The three enclosures are important. They report a change in the composition of Sindhia's council of ministers. The new council was composed of Sarji Rao Ghatgay, Raja Ambaji Inglia and Baboo Rao Angria. The former ministers were asked to resign. How the change had influenced the transactions with Jaipur and other Rajput states has also been explained.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 7th March 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 3rd instant to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General and also for your further information the accompanying copies of my dispatches of the 14th and 26th to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp at Puncholah 6 miles East of Rampoorah,
the 14th February 1809.

By my last dispatch of the 4th instant which I had the honour to address to the Governor-General it will have appeared to His Lordship that Serji Rao Ghatgay's influence at this Durbar was increasing chiefly by reason of the necessities of the Government and the persevering efforts of his Agents in Camp who have persisted with the greatest assiduity in their endeavours to impress upon Sindhia a belief that their master had the means as well as the anxious desire to extricate His Highness from his present uneasiness and even to raise the reputation of his Government to a degree much more elevated than that at which it at present stands.

The march of the Army to the northward was in itself an indication that these representations had not entirely failed of their intended effect and Serjee Rao was so much encouraged by it that he set out from Shahpoora at the distance of 60 or 70 miles from the then encampment of the Army and approached within a few miles of it attended by Balla Rao Inglia and Pandurang, brothers of Rajah Ambajee Inglia. The Maharajah at that period secretly announced to his ministers his determination not to entrust Ghatgay with the direction of his affairs, but did not endeavour to dissipate the hopes which the opposite party had been indirectly led to entertain; when things were in this state earnest applications were made by Serjee Rao for a meeting with Sindhia attended by an expression of his wish to see his daughter. After some consideration His Highness left this Camp on the morning of the 10th and an interview took place between him and Serjee Rao on the following day at the distance of about eight miles from the Army, This favourable occasion was taken by Ghatgay to strengthen by his own assertions all that had been advanced with so much industry by his Vakeels. He called Sindhia's attention, I understand, forcibly to the present enfeebled state of his Government represented the imperious necessity which existed for the exercise of vigorous measures in his foreign policy (alluding to the protracted war with Jaipore and the loss of his former superiority over the Rajah of Jodhpore and the more neighbouring petty states) and concluding by confidently offering his services as the means by which the advantages just referred to would occur to Sindhia's Government.

In this discourse any definite answer was evaded by Sindhia but they have continued together since that period. I am informed that Ambajee has been sent for but it is suspected he will decline attending upon Sindhia at present from a distrust of his and Ghatgay's intentions.

The Ministers at present in power have, of late, shown themselves inadequate to the charge of maintaining the troops which are the only foundation of a Government purely military in its nature as this is. Many of them are however old servants of the state and have long enjoyed Sindhia's confidence. They have besides entered into engagements personally with the bankers who have furnished on different occasions large sums of money for the exigencies of the state. These with other circumstances form a tie through which there is at least a repugnance to break and what adds to their strength is the violent and unprincipled conduct by which Serjee Rao Ghatgay, former administrator, was distinguished and the recollection of the dangerous consequences which might have ensued from it; notwithstanding those arguments daily experience proves the short-sighted policy of a Mahratta Durbar. Serjee Rao may continue means to afford instantaneous relief to the Government and if his counsel is attended to will probably be able to ensure its immediate success in the contest with Jaipore. The prospect of these advantages will in all probability contribute to a change in his favour but Sindhia's remaining with him separate from the Army seems to indicate an attention to other prudent considerations of Government which has frequently been expressed of assuming to itself no right of interference in transactions of this nature. I have refrained from every unsuitable expression of an interest in the proposed change and as Government has been pleased to cast a veil over the former conduct of Serjee Rao it is my intention, should occasion call for it, to meet Serjee Rao with that civility which is due to a near relation of Sindhia's or eventually to the Minister entrusted with the chief management of his affairs. The Army marched from Babye yesterday morning and in course of the day a meeting took place between Serjee Rao Ghatgay and his daughter on the present aspect of things. There is built a hope, I learn, that he will not continue with the Army but proceed towards Jaipore with a strong detachment from hence as was formerly projected.

The Army has moved this morning towards Bugwantgarh near the Bunnas, the Maharajah with a party of Horse is still in the rear and encamped at a short distance from Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Bala Rao Ianglia united Troops, but will suppose rejoin the main body tomorrow.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 26th February 1809.

SIR,

I have the honour to state to you the arrival of Serjee Rao Ghatgay in this Camp.

I soon after received a message from Dowlat Rao Sindhia expressive of his wish that a meeting should take place between me and that person to which I observed that I was on this occasion prepared to comply with His Highness's wishes.

Frequent and urgent letters had been sent by Sindhia and Ghatgay to Ambajee inviting him to join the Army and the daily expectation of his arrival occasioned the post.........................of the proposed meeting between me and Serjee Rao. Ambajee Inglia arrived on the morning of the 23rd and I was invited by the Maharaja to repair to His Highness's tents on the evening of that day which I accordingly did accompanied by the gentlemen of the Residency.

The Maharajah on my entering the Durbar was attended only by Baboo Rao Angria and Moraba Hari one of the late Ministry with some other chiefs of the Army but shortly after Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Ambajee Inglia also came in to whom I was introduced as also the other gentlemen. After the customary forms on such occasions were observed it was unexpectedly announced to me that a change had taken place in His Highness's Councils and that he had been pleased to confide the direction of his affairs to Serjee Rao Ghatgay jointly with Baboo Rao Angria and Raja Ambajee Inglia. The Maharajah it was added had thought proper formally to intimate to the occurrence of this event. On this occasion I thought a few words necessary and begun by observing that when the disagreement which had unhappily subsisted between His Highness and the British Government was brought to an amicable conclusion, it had been found necessary by Government to mark with its particular disapprobation the conduct of Serjee Rao Ghatgay. That however when the friendship between the two states had been cemented, it was contrary to the principles which usually influenced our conduct to retain any animosity towards him and his past conduct had therefore been pardoned. I added that as His Highness had now been pleased to entrust to Serjee Rao a share in the management of his affairs I had a confident expectation that his endeavours would be directed towards preserving and augmenting the friendship which at present existed between the two Governments. The Maharajah replied to me by saying it was his firm intention to maintain those relations of amity and that it was his expectation that the present harmony would experience a daily increase. The conversation terminated by my expressing the satisfaction I should have in reporting to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General that these professions continued to be acted upon and my being assured by the new Ministers that they would.

I was then invited by Serjee Rao Ghatgay to repair to his tents where he had prepared a Zeafut for me and he left the Durbar for the purpose of being ready to receive me there. I complied with his invitation and was treated by him with every civility; soon after receiving the presents which are customary on these occasions I took my leave.

Ambajee Inglia, I in a former dispatch observed, was very unwilling to accede to the proposal which was made to him of repairing to this camp but he at length yielded to the solicitations of Serjee Rao aided by those of his brother Balla Rao Inglia. Ghatgay professes his intention of leaving to his management the internal affairs of the Government and his conduct since the short period of his return has indicated a desire to reconcile to him the different parties in the Durbar; his character is, however, too well known to render such a reconciliation. I may perhaps say, possible as his presence alone appears to have excited much apprehension and distrust.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

To—LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp at Chanchnawha Ghat on the Bunnas,
the 3rd March 1809.

My Lord,

I had last the honour to address your Lordship on the 4th ultimo and have since had the honour to acquaint your Lordship through Mr. Secretary Edmonstone with the arrival in this camp of Serjee Rao Ghatgay and his subsequent reinstatement in the Councils of Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Since the occurrence of this latter event Ghatgay has been using his utmost endeavours to realise the hopes which it may be his former anxiety to impress upon the mind of the Maharajah. From Babye near Indergarh, whence my dispatch of the 4th of last month was dated, the Army moved north to Bugwantgarh, on the Bunnas. The Officers of the Jaipore Government were forced to fly from this fort which was occupied by and for the present annexed to this Government, large contributions have been levied on the Rajah of Ooniara a tributary to the Jaipore state and also in the country north of the Bunnas dependent on the same Government. From the vicinity of Bhagwantgarh, the Army has made three marches in a south-westerly direction but has continued in the Jaipore territory with an intention of pursuing the system of exaction which has been so actively begun.

The Minister with a view to procure large collections as well as to fix himself the more firmly in his newly acquired seat has desired to remove the officers of Revenue and those who hold lands of the Government and to substitute in their stead others who are attached to himself and who would thus from motives of interest apply some portion of their resources towards supporting the authority of their nation. This innovation has however been opposed though in a few instances it has been carried into effect.

Your Lordship has been informed of the arrival in this Camp of Ambajee Inglia also, the presence of this person is looked to by all with expectations of a favourable result; his union with Serjee Rao Ghatgay is thought extraordinary but it does not exist entirely free from distrust. Serjee Rao derives from it a consequence he would not otherwise possess, Ambajee also has credit sufficient to enable them to carry on the affairs of Government for which purpose it is already known what violent measures were formerly resorted to by Serjee Rao. The latter expects finally that his administration of affairs will be eyed with less suspicion by foreign states when he has joined with him a person of known moderation. As long as Ambajee Inglia retains his present influence it is reasonable to expect that he will moderate the conduct of his colleague as he is likely to act as a restraint upon those irregular principles which it has already been evinced would not otherwise be confined within reasonable limits.

Most of the former Ministers have been excluded from their former influence in the management of affairs and the new Ministers though as I before observed they have been formally entrusted with the chief direction of them have not yet assumed particular offices to the exclusion of the other party. Baboo Rao Angria who has been admitted as the third person in the new formed ministry is not considered as possessing much weight or influence and his admission has been dictated perhaps by a desire to suppress his importunities as well as on account of his relationship to Sindhia and Serjee Rao Ghatgay.

The former Ministers have tamely submitted to the present suspensions of their authority but it would appear that remote hopes are contemplated of drawing Ambajee into their views and they derive a temporary support not perhaps to be considered as very different from the Maharajah who seems fearful of giving his entire confidence to those whom he has lately called to his councils.

The immediate effect produced by this change on Dowlat Rao Sindhia's foreign relations has been the interruption of the negotiations which had commenced with the Rajah of Jaipore. Measures are now taken to detach considerable reinforcements from hence towards Jaipore, and Bapoojee Sindhia who has long commanded the troops employed on that service has been recalled. He is to be relieved by Jaggoo Bapoo, Bukshee to the Army and an adherent of the Ministers. A strong detachment is preparing to be sent also under Balla Rao Inglia's brother to Ambajee who is to proceed to the northward and co-operate with the force under Jaggoo Bapoo. The Raja of Jaipore, it is said, is also assembling his troops but if a judgment can be formed from what is past, these mutual preparations may not be a prelude to a more vigorous prosecution of hostilities than has hitherto been manifested. The same system of warfare will probably be continued and heavy contributions be exacted from the Jaipore tributaries. The demands of this Government might be further enforced by Sindhia's march to the northward and his negotiations with the Rajah of Jodhpore. From these however no result appears probable which will be attended with benefit to Rajah Man Singh from whom it is not concealed that Sindhia means to demand money at the same time an intention is avowed of securing to the Rajah some advantages which remain undefined at the termination of the war with Jaipore.

My latest accounts from Jeswant Rao Holkar's camp mention that Army continuing in its former encampment. A junction with it had again been effected by Meer Khan and his Army. This person persist I understand in his endeavours to supplant Holkar's former Ministers in consequence of the continued incapacity of that chief to attend to his affairs in person. Meer Khan's intention has been repeated of marching to Bhopal in compliance with an invitation to that effect which is said to have been made to him by Vazeer Mohammed Khan. This movement probably would not be effected, were he to succeed in his present pursuit in opposition to which Holkar's present Ministers have on different occasions been encouraged from hence. Meer Khan's design of assisting Vazeer Mohammed Khan has been taken notice of in this Durbar and any measures of this nature would, I imagine, create much jealousy notwithstanding the circumstances of Sindhia's having in some degree altered his determination respecting his co-operation with the Rajah of Berar by the (appointment?) of his Ministers.

R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 23.—Enclosing a copy of his letter to the Governor General, dated the 10th April 1809. The enclosure describes the movements of the Sindhia and his attitude towards the Rajah of Jaipur. It also touches upon Ambajee Inglia, Sarji Rao Ghatgay and the Pindaries.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp near Dhoonie, the 17th April 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 10th instant to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp before Dhoonie, the 10th April 1809.

MY LORD,

Since the period at which I last had the honour to address your Lordship I have transmitted to the Chief Secretary to Government reports of such circumstances connected with the affairs of this Durbar as appeared to me requisite for your Lordship's more immediate information and shall now do myself the honour to state those other events that have occurred which seem to merit the attention of your Lordship.

Shortly after Dowlat Rao Sindhia took up his present position with a view to prosecute the siege of this fort in consequence of the evasion of His Highness's demands by the officers in command of it a mutual disposition appeared on the part of this Government and the Rajah of Jaipore to recommence the negotiation which had been broken off on the first formation of the present ministry. The approach of this Army so far to the northward seemed to create some apprehension in Jaipore, and the divided state of those who administered the Rajah's affairs affording little prospect of their being efficiently conducted, it led to a change there in the release from a long confinement of Khushali Ram Bhoura an old servant of the Jaipore State and who had a principal share in the direction of its affairs during the life of Madhao Singh, grandfather of the present Rajah. He is reputed to be a man of respectable talents but is now of a very advanced age. The administration of the Jaipore Government has now been vested in him and from his conduct during the short period of his recent elevation it appears to be his desire to put an end to the present contest but to provide against the necessity of the Rajah's submitting to condition of a nature too humiliating he does not neglect to take measures for collecting an Army in all probability suspecting justly that the terms will be severe to which the Ministers of this Durbar may endeavour to compel his submission.

The unexpected check which the Maharaja has met with from the resistance opposed to him by the garrison of Dhoonie will, it is to be supposed, have the effect of protracting to a considerable length any negotiation which may under existing circumstances be entered into and thus prevent for some time the cessation of hostilities, and this consideration may appear to derive strength from the present state of Sindhia's Durbar which I shall presently notice.

The effect produced upon this Government by the embarrassing situation into which Sindhia has been brought has partly appeared in the deputation of Vakils in the first instance from hence for the purpose of conducting to this Camp the person selected by the Rajah of Jaipore to carry on the negotiation. They have been for some days in that capital where difficulties have arisen real or pretended in finding upon a person proper for this purpose; it is at length however given out that the principal Minister himself will proceed hither and preparations are said to be on foot for his departure from Jaipore. In the meantime the troops which have now for a considerable period been in advance of this Army continue to ravage the Jaipore dominions. That force separated into two divisions, the Chief Command being vested in Jagoba Bapoo as formerly mentioned. The principal part is under the immediate orders of this person and the other division is commanded by Bapoo Sindhia as before.

Notwithstanding the heavy exactions which it is generally believed have been made by this Chief, the troops have been much neglected and have been suffered to fall considerably in arrears of pay. On the late change their conduct again became seditious and the Infantry in particular resumed their threats of returning to this Camp and were prevented from carrying them into execution only by the return of Baptiste who commands the principal division of the Regular Infantry, but who till that period had been employed in conducting the seige of Dhaonie. This mutinous disposition has been evinced chiefly by the troops with Jaggo Bapoo and it has been surmised that their former commander has been instrumental in exciting it. There has also been much discontent manifested in this Army which has naturally been heightened at present by the immediate call for their services. Some money has been raised by the exertions of the new Minister but by no means sufficient to supply the just demands for it and much difficulty is experienced by him in devising temporary expedient to induce the troops cheerfully to submit to the inconveniences sometimes attendant upon actual exertion; were Serji Rao Ghatgay however so situated as to be enabled to act without restraint the concurrent testimony of various sources of information render it probable that those obstacles would not long be suffered to oppose him.

Within these few days an event has been apprehended which natural causes seem to render by no means remote and which in its effects may operate much to the disadvantage of the real interests of this Government. Rajah Ambajee Inglia to whom for a time was by some attributed the real but concealed direction of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's affairs became lately solicitous about the ascendancy which Serjee Rao Ghatgay arrogated to himself, and afterwards in consequence of the little deference paid to him on various occasions to this anxiety was super-added the ill success which attended his first public measure, and finally occasional differences with Ghatka which are said to have created some alarm; in this distress of mind he was seized with a severe illness which induced him for the purpose of greater tranquillity as well perhaps as to avoid the importunities with which he was likely to be assailed to retire to a short distance from this Camp. He is now at the distance of about 20 miles from hence where it is his intention to remain having left this on the morning of the 7th. There are apprehensions that the infirmities of age (he being, I hear, upwards of eighty) will scarcely enable him to bear up against his present severe indisposition.

Anna Ramchandra the former Minister has arrived at Ujjain where it would appear to be the Maharajah's intention that he should for the present remain and since my communication relative to this subject to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone I have further reason to believe that His Highness continues though in secret to be well disposed towards that person.

The undivided attention of the Minister being so much required in the object of his immediate pursuit, the less opportunity has been afforded for directing it as yet with efficacy to those of a foreign nature and the Rajah of Jodhpore perceiving there is little serious intention in the Durbar at present to assist in the promotion of his interests has abated in his desire to form a more intimate connection between the two states, that has hitherto existed. Dowlat Rao Sindhia however in his anxiety lately that Rajah Man Singh should for that purpose send to this Camp Anand Rao Bushshee his principal Sirdar and commander of his Army seemed desirous to keep on foot those expectations which the Rajah had been led to entertain. Peace has been restored to the dominions of that Chief for the present by the submission of the late Sawaee Singh's two sons and the hopeless situation of Dhokul Singh who is now in the Shekoatee country, and finds no Chief desirous or perhaps capable of supporting his cause with effect.

The Maharaja's troops to the southward although recalled altogether from that service were slow in obeying the orders transmitted to them from hence, and a direct act of hostility committed by the Vizeer Mohammed Khan in threatening to attack the fort of Islam Nagar which is annexed to this Government occasioned those orders to be lately countermanded; but the Rajah of Berar's Vakeel continues as he has been for a short time past, to be treated with marked inattention. The Pindari Chiefs have not yet arrived in this Camp though daily expected, some difficulty arose in adjusting the terms on which they were to be liberated but this will not be apprehended, prove an obstacle to their final release.

The latest advices from Jeswant Rao Holkar's Camp mention the renewal on the part of Meer Khan of his importunate demands upon Holkar's Ministers. The troops of the other Chiefs of the Army and those of Rajah Mahipat Ram in particular are also represented as being clamorous ; an accommodation at one time appeared to have taken place between the Ministers of that Durbar and Meer Khan and they were desirous that he should march first into the province of Marwar and afterwards towards Jaipore but neither of these measures have been pursued. Mention has been also made of Jeswant Rao Holkar's intention of marching into Mewar.

It has been announced to the Rajah of Jaipore that Holkar intends calling upon him for the payment of his regular tribute which it is alleged has been for some time due and that Meer Khan is to be entrusted with the charge of receiving it. This has been done in a manner to give it publicity and may possibly have been the consequence of Rajah Jugget Singh's application to Holkar for assistance in his contest with Sindhia. Should Holkar's Ministers, as is probable in the present state of that Chieftain's affairs, be cautious of offending this Government Meer Khan might, as formerly, move to the northward independently of Holkar's authority or apparently so, and the measure would be attended with the further consequence to those ministers of being relieved from the presence of that Chief which has hitherto been productive of much inconvenience to them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 24.—The enclosure to this letter—from Close to the Governor-General—describes at some length the negotiations between Dowlat Rao and Jaipur for an accommodation, and the affairs of Jaswant Rao Holkar.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENTT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 21st May 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 30th April to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

To—LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp at Dhoonie, the 30th April 1809.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the 16th instant the Jaipore Minister Khushali Ram Bhowra arrived at the fort of Nasireeda a few miles from this Camp whence he opened his negotiation with Ambajee Inglia who has continued at Baghora, the place to which he retired as stated in my last address to your Lordship.

The alarming symptoms of Ambajee's illness subsided about the 14th instant and though but ill prepared to transact important business he communicated with the Jaipore Minister through intermediate agents and on one occasion a personal interview took place between them. It was not until the 25th that Khooshalee Ram had a meeting with Serjee Rao Ghatka who proceeded some miles from hence for that purpose and the Jaipore Minister marched into this Camp on the following day. His first object has been to suspend Dowlat Rao Sindhia's operations against Dhoonie and the batteries have accordingly ceased firing.

The Ministers appear desirous to avail themselves of the present occasion to terminate the contest with Jaipore, a measure which besides securing a considerable payment from the Rajah of Jaipore would further contribute to their own stability but a secret influence is exerted in opposition to them. It has, I understand, been proposed by Khooshali Ram to pay 17 lakhs of rupees to Dowlat Rao Sindhia and to this Serjee Rao Ghatka has been anxious to induce His Highness to accede. In the commencement of the negotiations, it was proposed in order to support the reputation of this Government, that Dhoonie should be made a separate cause from that of the general peace. This was rejected by the Jaipore Minister, but has as yet been insisted on by the Maharajah and an obstacle has been thus opposed to an immedate accommodation. Ambajee Inglia's demands at first were as might be supposed extravagant, aid His Highness also affected to conceive, he had a right to expect a considerable remuneration for the alleged want of faith on the part of the Jaipore Government in having so long delayed to liquidate the debt incurred by it two years ago.

It will be in your Lordship's recollection that at that period a force was detached by Dowlat Rao Sindhia under Ambajee Inglia for the purpose of co-operating with the Rajah of Jaipore in the war in which he was then engaged with Rajah Mansingh of Jodhpore, for which assistance the Rajah was to have paid a considerable sum of money. Exclusively however of the impediment thus opposed to the negotiation by Dowlot Rao Sindhia, the Jaipore Minister is said within the few last days to have found reason to suspect Serjee Rao Ghatka's sincerity and that there is little security against the future revival of his demands on his master; and a suspicion of this nature will not appear to be altogether unfounded and a circumstance which must tend to confirm this distrust is the Minister's actual observation of the divided state of affairs in the Durbar.

The secret influence to which I have in this dispatch ventured to allude arises from a combination of the late minister's adherents who have for some time past considered the present a favourable opportunity to try their ability to regain their former influence. Their success, it is reasonably to be presumed, would contribute greatly to the satisfaction and tranquility of this part of India but their only prospect of accomplishing this design appears to consist in the support given to them by His Highness himself. It may no doubt appear unaccountable that Dowlat Rao Sindhia should so soon repeat of the late change which could only have been effected with his own concurrence but the result has not been such as I believe His Highness to have anxiously hoped. His expectations must have been directed to the support of his Government by the efficient operation of a vigorous ministry but combined with the circumstances which I have had the honour to communicate for your Lordship's information to the Chief Secretary to Government on different occasions the state of His Highness's affairs is now as much perplexed as it was before the accession to power of Serjee Rao Ghatgay; all reasonable conclusion however from the present aspect of things may be frustrated by the irresolution and weakness which are so generally ascribed to His Highness's personal character; a consideration which may damp the exertions of the late ministers.

Much solicitude has been expressed by Serjee Rao Ghatgay for Ambajee's return to Camp; he has however offered as an excuse for continuing absent the weak state of his health though an opinion has gained ground that he considers it safe to observe from a distance the result of the present condition of affairs; Ambajee was a short time ago desirous of proceeding to Ajmer but was dissuaded from this purpose.

A secret negotiation has been going on for a short period between the Rajah of Jaipore and Raja Zalim Singh of Kota. The Raja is desirous of engaging Zalim Singh in his cause and that he should proceed to Jaipore to assist with his advice in the administration of his affairs. He has also desired to be assisted with troops from Kota, but these measures I should conceive were not directed to any more immediate object than that of providing against the supposed duplicity of this Durbar. Reciprocal acts of cordiality have also passed lately between the Rajah of Jaipore and Jodhpore which appear to have resulted from the same cause. Rajah Jugget Singh might, hope to accelerate an acquiescence by this means in the proposals made by his Minister in this Camp and Rajah Man Singh, to check the unfavourable views which have been entertained here regarding him.

No fixed plan of conduct has yet been laid down for the regulation of Sindhia's future measure. It is doubtful whether as was some time ago projected the march by this Army will in the event of matters being accommodated with Jaipore be directed towards Ajmer and Sambre or whether on the contrary His Highness will march into Bombay and thence over-awe the Government of Kota, or whether both these measures may be pursued at the same time by a separation of the Army into two divisions. A movement into Mewar has lastly been considered of, the object of which might probably have been to check the operations of Meer Khan who it was supposed had formed the design of marching into that Province.

Were Dowlat Rao Sindhia to persist in his intention of advancing claims on the Rajah of Jodhpore, his views would be promoted by moving towards Sambre. The Brigade of Infantry under Heera Singh which was some time ago in Serjee Rao Ghatgay's service, I have formerly stated to have gone over to Rajah Man Singh. Ghatgay is now by his recall desirous to reinforce this Army and is in treaty with him for his return. This Brigade is said to be strong and to have several guns attached to it.

Jeswant Rao Holkar's Camp is reported to have lately been the scene of much confusion and disorder excited by a Mutiny of the regular Infantry and the Corps of Artillery. They seized Holkar's person and conducted him to their camp where he was detained. The Ministers were obliged to take refuse in Meer Khan's Army whence they endeavoured to suppress the tumult. The late conduct of Meer Khan gave rise to an opinion that he had been instrumental in exciting this ferment in order to secure the persons of the Ministers, and it was accordingly said they had been put in confinement but this statement has not been corroborated.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship on this occasion that no further communication has passed between me and Serjee Rao Ghatgay on the matter contained in my dispatch of the 21st instant to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone; I have considered it unnecessary to take any further notice of it nor do I conceive it, incumbent on me spontaneously to revive the subject.

R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 25.—The enclosure, which is a copy of Close's letter to the Governor-General announces the death of Rajah Ambajee Inglia on 4th May 1809.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENTT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 24th May 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 6th instant to the address of the Right Honourable the Governor-General.

To—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp at Dhaonie, 6th May 1809.

My Lord,

I am concerned to announce to your Lordship a confirmation of the report stated in my dispatch of yesterday's date to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone. Rajah Ambajee Inglia having expired on the night of the 4th instant.

Sensible of his approaching dissolution he expressed much anxiety to take a last farewell of his brother Balla Rao Inglia who has been for some days in this Camp but there was not time sufficient to admit of this consolation. He also was desirous of an interview with Serjee Rao Ghatgay which he said would be the last but this from the same cause was denied him.

When the account of his death reached Dowlat Rao Sindhia it created much uneasiness in His Highness's mind he dwelt upon Ambaji's qualifications, said it was to him he had chiefly trusted for the well ordered administration of his affairs, and that it would he feared be difficult to replace him. An expression of regret also escaped His Highness upon considering the prospect before him and a general uneasiness has, I understand, on this account been diffused.

Shortly before his demise Ambajee was particularly solicitous to see Serjee Rao Ghatgay and desired he might be sent for with the utmost expedition but whether this was the natural result of the feelings incident to his situation or arose from a desire to make any important communication I have not learned.

I have considered this a proper occasion for sending to His Highness to say how much I regretted the loss which he had sustained in the death of so old a servant and so great a well wisher to the prosperity of His Highness's Government and to add my conviction that the intelligence of this event would create much concern in your Lordship's mind.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 26.—The enclosure which is important is a copy of the letter that Close wrote to the Governor-General. It describes the negotiations between Jaipur and Sindhia which had practically concluded, the affairs of Holkar and the designs of Meer Khan.

From—R. CLOSE, RESIDENTT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 27th May 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 15th instant to address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp on the Bunnas, the 15th May 1809.

My Lord,

I have deferred reporting to your Lordship the further progress which has been made in the negotiations between Dowlat Rao Sindhia and the Rajah of Jaipore, in the expectation that I should have had it in my power shortly to communicate the ultimate views of the Maharajah and the destination of this Army.

In the discussions relative to the proposed stipulations of the treaty of peace some altercation has taken place but the anxiety of the Ministers in this Durbar to bring it to a conclusion has apparently induced them to acquiesce in the requisitions of the Jaipore Minister; he refused his consent to Dowlat Rao Sindhia's demand that the arrangement in which the fort of Dhaonie was to be comprehended should be a separate one from that of the peace between the two Governments and it appearing that little was to be gained by insisting on this stipulation, His Highness's Ministers have considered it prudent to comply with Khushali Ram Bhowra's desire that the siege of Dhaonie should be discontinued, that the Army should march from the position it had occupied and that the fort should be included in the general negotiation. In consequence of this settlement the Army on the 11th instant marched to the Bunnas having moved in a north-westerly direction about 8 miles.

As a necessary step towards an accommodation it has been required of Dowlat Rao Sindhia to withdraw his troops which have been in advance of this army in the Jaipore territory, that all the places of which they had possessed themselves should be relinquished, and that His Highness himself should also without delay march to a certian distance from the Jaipore frontier and no longer to offer any molestation to the Jaipore dominions. The troops to the northward have accordingly been ordered to retire delivering up to the Jaipore officers the places they had taken, and it was determined though seemingly not without reluctance that this army should also retire and on the 14th instant a movement was made to the south-westward. The troops arrived on the present ground of encampment on the right bank of the Bunnas yesterday and the Maharajah will, it is probable, continue his march to Shapoora on the confines of Mewar.

It had before been determined to advance to the northward for the purpose of carrying on a negotiation with the Rajah of Jodhpore but the Jaipore Minister opposed this measure apprehending that the tranquillity of his Government would be looked for in vain whilst this army continued in the vicinity, there being every ground for supposing that any intercourse with Rajah Man Singh would be directed towards exciting him to a revival of his contest with the Government of Jaipore; a friendly correspondence lately opened between those Governments and they would materially consult their own interests by accommodating their differences without the intervention of Dowlat Rao Sindhia. A communication nevertheless continues between Rajah Man Singh and this Government but it has as yet assumed no determinate object.

Besides the collections which have been made in the Jaipore territories since the commencement of this war by contributions and sometimes the most wanton devastation, the sum of 15 lakhs of rupees is now agreed to be paid to this Government half at present and the remainder at the expiration of two months. Some donation is also to be made to the Ministers individually a practice which in such transactions is not accounted unusual.

Delay and difficulty have already occurred in the fulfilment of these stipulations and from the loose and negligent manner in which affairs are here commonly conducted, however important in their nature, it appears by no means an improbable conjecture that a considerable period may be suffered to elapse without their being carried into effect and from this circumstance their complete execution may be perhaps considered as altogether precarious. The disaffection of the troops has lately risen to a great height and there is no means of immediately satisfying their demand; this state of things which cannot escape the observation of the Jaipore Minister and other circumstances with the repetition of which it is unnecessary I should here trouble your Lordship give occasion to presume that the performance of the conditions now agreed to by the two Governments may for some time at least be successfully evaded, and on the other hand perhaps a delay in their accomplishment is the only means by which security is to be had against their infringement by this Government.

The march of this Army to Shapoora would enable the Maharajah with convenience to make his proposed demands upon Bombay, Kota and Mewar and if necessary to enforce them; it is also well situated for observing the conduct of the Rajahs of Jaipore and Jodhpore and availing himself of circumstances as they arise. But though the contest with Jaipore has thus been brought to a termination, if affairs in this quarter continue to engross His Highness's attention, those to the southward are not likely to prosper.

After much dissention in Jeswant Rao Holkar's councils in consequence of the ambitious designs of Meer Khan, the latter Chief suddenly formed the resolution of marching to the assistance of Vazeer Mohammed Khan and moved from Holkar's camp about the 26th of April, he has here been last heard of at Shahjehanpoor where it is stated as his intention he was about to commence with the Rajah of Berar.

Encouraged by his advance Vazeer Mohammed Khan regardless of the friendly disposition which has been evinced by this Government attacked a detachment of Sindhia's troops in that quarter which he defeated. The Infantry was dispersed, their guns captured and the two principal chiefs are reported to have fled from thence on Meer Khan's approach and to be now on their return to this Camp. The march of Meer Khan through Sindhia's territories in Malwa has occasioned some expostulation from hence and threats have been held out to deter him from persisting in his present pursuit.

Holkar's intention of marching to Indore has been revived and towards the end of April he made one march in that direction. Some of the troops had however refused to march without receiving their pay.

The troops which had been detached from this Army under the command of Juggo Bapoo Bukshee being no longer required to act against Jaipore have received orders to march into the Kerowle country there to levy contributions to the amount of some lakhs of rupees.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 27.—The enclosure to this letter is important and printed. In the enclosure which is a copy of his dispatch to the Governor-General, Close gives an account of the negotiations between Sindhia and Jodhpur, of the relations between Sindhia, Amir Khan and Karim Khan, of the condition and interference of the Sindhia in Mewar, of the finances of Sindhia and the discussions of Sarji Rao Ghatgay with the Resident's Moonshi about the disturbances committed by Amir Khan.

From—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 12th July 1809.

To—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT
WILLIAM.

Camp at Suroree, the 7th July 1809.

My Lord,

Since I last had the honour to address your Lordship the attention of this Durbar has been chiefly occupied in preparations for detaching a force to the southward for the avowed purpose of carrying on hostilities against Meer Khan.

The Minister in all probability perceiving that Dowlat Rao Sindhia's resources are not adequate to the prosecution at the same period of two such important objects as the expulsion of Meer Khan from Bhopal and the enforcement of his demands against Rajah Man Singh, has for the present relinquished one of those projects, and the compliant disposition which has been evinced by the Rajah of Jodhpore even though it should not be sincere has enabled the Minister without embarrassment to suspend his proposed operations against that Government. Should Man Singh not adopt some measures to secure his future tranquillity the troops of Meer Khan now employed by him are precluded by an express requisition from this Government from rendering any assistance to that Chief but without weakening the foundation of Sindhia's future pretensions.

In his present pursuit Serjee Rao Ghatgay has many difficulties to encounter arising from the impoverished state of Sindhia's finances also from the reluctance which has..............on the part of the different..................to engage in a service of responsibility in which he has the entire control. The Rajah of Berar has however been invited to unite his forces with those of this Government in resenting Meer Khan's late conduct having been informed at the same time that little effect can be hoped from the exertions which may here be made without that assistance which he is supposed to be so capable of affording.

Notwithstanding the Meer Khan's separation from Holkar's army, a measure greatly desired in that Durbar in consequence of his attempt to avail himself of the various discordant interests of a feeble and distracted Government for the purpose of his own elevation and although it might have been considered weak policy to afford to that Chief an encouragement in his present views which would enable him at a future period to prosecute his former endeavours with greater success there is reason to believe that he has been countenanced in his present proceedings by that Durbar which however appears to be divided by a faction in which views of an opposite nature prevail. Dowlat Rao Sindhia has on one occasion been written to by all means to punish Meer Khan for his late aggressive conduct that it was with the utmost difficulty and not without a sacrifice he had been induced to leave Holkar undisturbed, and that consequently His Highness would meet with Holkar's entire concurrence in the measure he might pursue for that purpose. On the other hand letters have been received dissuading Sindhia's proceeding against Meer Khan and denying that he had offered any injury to this Government but this assertion has been easily refuted and accordingly disregarded. Subsequently to Meer Khan's march towards Bhopal his Army was, I am informed, reinforced from Holkar's Camp; this I believe to have occurred previously to the nomination of Balla Ram Sait to the office of Dewan in which has lately been vested a general superintendance over Jeswant Rao Holkar's affairs.

I have had the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the introduction into the ministry of Bhow Bhaskar and Tantia Allygeer, and that this was effected chiefly through Meer Khan's influence derived from the apprehension and disquietude occasioned by his presence; a suspicious circumstance lately occurred in Holkar's Comp, with the details of which it is needless I should trouble your Lordship. There appeared however to be a design directed against Holkar's provinces; the instigator of it suffered death and the transaction was immediately succeeded by Balla Ram Sait's nomination just related.

In order perhaps to gain time a person has been deputed from hence to Kota accompanied by Vazeer Mohammed Khan's Vakeel they have been instructed to engage Rana Zalim Singh to use his influence in detaching Vazeer Mohammed Khan from the interests of Meer Khan and also to persuade the latter to desist from his present hostile conduct. Another object of their journey is to negotiate with the mother and son of Karim the Pindary Chief for his release. This measure has for some time been an object of Serjee Rao Ghatgay's desire; he recommends it as the only means of securing the co-operation of the Pindaries who would greatly contribute to the strength of His Highness's Army without increasing the expense of it but the Maharaja has considered it indispensible first to obtain some security for his future good conduct in the event of his liberation from confinement.

Since the 16th ultimo at which period I had the honour to address your Lordship, this Army has made three marches to the northward and I understand it to be His Highness's intention to encamp in this neighbourhood during the rains. This interval may be employed in negotiating with the Rajah of Jodhpore and with Dhokul Singh and also in adjusting the dissentions which prevail in Mewar between the Raja of Udaipore and the several Omrahs who have long since rendered themselves independent of his authority. The Rajah for the purpose of maintaining the small remaining portion of it appears reduced to the dangerous alternative of calling in the aid of this Government. The result of Sindhia's interference in the affairs of Mewar has hitherto been in conjunction with other circumstances the dismemberment of that province, several strong forts and a considerable tract of country which belong to Sindhia are the fruits of that line of conduct together with the rightful exaction of an annual tribute, nor do I conceive that a deviation from this rapacity is to be looked for in the present instance. A considerable body of Infantry was lately sent to reinforce the few troops which had been left for the protection of Sindhia's possessions.

The Maharaja's presence continues to be required here to exact from the Jaipore Government the execution of the late treaty; much evasion has been hitherto practised and is likely to continue.

On approaching the district of Ajmer, the Maharaja formed the intention of visiting the ancient city of that name but His Highness was induced to drop that designs, I believe, from the secret intrigue of Balla Rao Inglia, the late Ambajee's brother, who holds it in Jagheer and would reasonably be alarmed at the devastation which must have been committed in it by so large an Army. His Highness's determination may also have been influenced by the movement to the southward and towards Ajmer of a detachment from the Jodhpore Army.

The former discontent continues to previl among the Maharaja's troops parties of which occasionally retire from this Camp, in order to reconcile some of those who are to march towards Bhopal and who could not otherwise be prevailed upon to separate from the Army Serjee Rao Ghatgay remained at the distance of two days' march in the rear. He rejoined the Army yesterday having, I understand, persuaded them to make a movement to the southward. They do not exceed 1,500 men and much time will probably elapse before they are joined by the remaining forces destined for that service. A report however of the present feeble measure may produce some effect.

It is reported that in Jeswant Rao Holkar's Army also the troops are dissatisfied and I have received information of a correspondence which has commenced between Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Mahipat Ram who appears desirous of leaving Holkar and repairing to this Camp.

I shall here do myself the honour to submit to your Lordship the substance of a conversation which passed a few days ago between Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Aezuddin, the Moonshi attached to this residency. I have considered it unnecessary that I should encourage such discussions by holding these conferences in person and have therefore preferred that Moonshi Aezuddin should attend Serjee Rao Ghatgay and report to me what should be communicated by the Minister. This mode has appeared also most agreeable to the Minister himself who has requested the Moonshi's attendance.

On the occasion to which I now refer Serjee Rao Ghatgay began by relating all the circumstances of Dhokul Singh's expulsion from Jodhpore and that he had lately endeavoured to interest Dowlat Rao Sindhia in his cause to whom he had made large offers both of money and territory to effect his restoration. That in the attainment of this considerable assistance was expected from the Rajah of Bikaner and the Shekawatees. The Jaipore Government it was observed also listened favourably to the proposed project. The Minister went on to say that Meer Khan had acquired a degree of influence in Marwar sufficient to obstruct Sindhia's measures in that quarter and was now establishing himself in Bhopal over which he maintained that Dowlat Rao Sindhia possessed some rights, and the Maharaja he said had determined to send a large force against that Chief. On this as on former occasions the Minister affected to wish for my opinion and advice.

Aezuddin Moonshi called to Ghatgay's recollection that he had before conversed with me on similar subjects, when I had replied to him as I thought proper and that he had now been instructed to say that Meer Khan was a servant of Holkar, with whom we were on terms of peace and friendship and that the Maharaja would therefore pursue towards him such measures as appeared to him expedient without one interposition. Serjee Rao Ghatgay then said that Meer Khan had committed an act of aggression against the Peshwa by raising contributions in His Highness's territories in Malwa which could not be agreeable to the British Government since it had taken notice of Sindhia's proceedings in the same quarter and also observed that it was extraordinary we should profess to be on terms of friendship with all the different states and at the same time should decline to assist them in their disputes, if we were not to do so he asked who would. The Moonshi said in reply that we were it was time on good terms with all ; that we wished also to see the different states on terms of friendship among themselves ; and that they attended to the improvement of their respective affairs he said he should however report to me what had passed and shortly after took his leave.

The reply to these remarks of the Minister appears to be sufficiently obvious and when occasion calls for it, it is my intention to answer them in the spirit of those observations which I have already found it necessary to make on occasions somewhat similar to the present.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 28.—The enclosure which is important, is a copy of the letter that the Resident wrote to the Governor-General giving the details of the circumstances that ended in the death of Sarji Rao Ghatgay. The enclosure is dated 27th July 1809 and Sarji Rao was killed on the evening of 26th.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp at Nimara, July 27th 1809.

MY LORD,

I yesterday evening transmitted by express to the Chief Secretary to Government for your Lordship's information a concise account of the death of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's late Minister.

For some time there had been frequent disputes and occasionally violent altercation between His Highness and Sarji Rao Ghatgay in consequence of Sindhia's evident mistrust of him and circumstances which immediately led to the event of yesterday arose from Ghatgay's determination if possible to procure for Ambajee's successor the Soubahship of Gwalior and the Maharaja's reluctance to coincide in the wishes of his Minister; another subject of warm discussion had been the dismission of the Jaipore Minister; this measure has been eagerly desired by the Rajah of Jaipore who therefore held it forth as the only mode of speedily terminating this differences. The Minister was accordingly anxious for Khooshalee Ram's return to Jaipore whilst the Maharaja and his secret advisers entertained the greatest suspicion of that Durbar and devised every means of evading a compliance with the Minister's desire.

By these means Sarji Rao Ghatgay naturally of a warm disposition was further irritated and in urging His Highness to accede to his demands concerning the Soubaship of Gwalior he conducted himself in a manner highly disrespectful. This behaviour Sindhia felt himself under the necessity of resenting and ordered his detention. Had the Minister remained, it is most probable no violence would have been offered to his person, he however rushed from the Durbar, the occasion was soon made known to the surrounding people and Sarji Rao Ghatgay's attendants drew their swords, this was also a signal for his pursuers and he himself it would appear disdaining to make any effort to appease the tumult on the contrary urged it the more by desiring his own attendants to strike; he escaped to tent belonging to one of his friends which however being suffered to fall upon him facilitated his seizure.

Three Sirdars of rank and adherents of the Minister fell victims to the rage of the troops and the Minister himself was speared through the body by an officer of rank in the Army, he received also other wounds which immediately proved fatal. The Sirdar, named Anand Rao Sindhia and son of the late Munajee Ponkra by whose hand he more immediately fell was instantaniously ordered to leave camp. Several men were killed and wounded amidst the confusion which ensued.

The Minister's death was the signal for siezing the persons and property of all his principal friends. Balla Rao Inglia, brother to the late Ambajee Baba Patunkar, brother-in-law to Sarji Rao, and Appa Chitnavees, the three persons who were most instrumental in bringing about Ghatgay's recall to power are now in close confinement besides many others. A similar attempt was made upon Trimbak Rao Ambajee, son and successor, but he, I am informed, took an early occasion to make his escape.

During the whole of last night there prevailed much anxiety and apprehension throughout the camp but transquillity is now perfectly restored.

R. CLOSE,

Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 29.—The enclosure which is important is a copy of Close's letter to the Governor-General; has been written from Camp at Roopalee, 20 miles north of Shahpura on the 19th August 1809. In this letter Close describes that the Sindhia wanted to appoint a Minister in the place of Sarji Rao, to continue his attachment to the British and to bring to a conclusion his dealings with Jaipur state....The decumated state of Udaipur and the attitude of the Holkar are also touched.

From—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Camp at Roopalee 20th miles north from Shahpoora,
the 10th August 1809.

My Lord,

In a late communication to the Chief Secretary to Government I did myself the honour to submit for your Lordship's information the uncertainty which prevailed in this Durbar respecting the selection of an officer qualified to fill the vacant situation of Chief Minister.

The dissatisfaction which was created amongst persons of rank and influence by the views of Deoba Kalia who aspired to that elevated station rendered the adoption of other measures necessary calculated to give greater satisfaction and to diffuse that confidence which it appeared difficult otherwise to attain. The ascendancy however has for some time been maintained over the mind of Dowlat Rao Sindhia by Deoba Kallia is likely to preclude for a time the full attainment of the desired object though he himself, it would appear, is sensible of the difficulties which oppose his ambitious designs.

A project was formed of paying a deference to the public opinion by placing at the head of affairs a person of respectability who would conciliate those who appeared disposed to foment dissention but that His Highness's favourite should at the same time retain, if not exclusively at least in a great measure, the superintendance of his affairs.

For this purpose Baboo Rao Angria and Gopal Bhow were successively invited to accept this situation of ostensible control but of little real importance. On their declining however, either from the conviction that their necessitous condition rendered it impracticable for them to conduct the affairs of the Government with any degree of efficiency or from their reluctance as seems most probable to lend their assistance to the proposed project the design of which they suspected, another mode was devised by Deoba Kalia which afforded some prospect of his being enabled to exercise the Chief authority without exciting jealousy or being exposed to those obstacles which might arise from the intervention of other persons on whose favourable disposition he could not place entire reliance. His Highness a few days ago formally intimated to the principal officers of the Durbar his determination to put an end to all division by assuming in person the exclusive direction of public affairs, he expressed his intention to subject to his immediate control and inspected the duties of the higher officers and menaced with his displeasure those who should hereafter attempt to excite discord or in any manner to disturb the tranquillity of affairs. That this disguise should long be maintained His Highness's general character and disposition render sufficiently improbable, but a very essential object may be attained by even a temporary continuance of it, the perplexities in which His Highness has been so long involved may experience some relief although of little longer duration perhaps than the measure now resorted to is likely to prove.

His Highness now appears returning to that temporizing policy with regard to foreign states which though it experienced a short interruption has for some time characterized this Government. A negotiation is set on foot with Meer Khan and the design before entertained of detaching a body of troops against him though not altogether dropt, will, if persisted in, most probably experience much delay in its execution. His Highness appears also but little disposed to carry matters with regard to the Jodhpore Government to that extremity which was formerly agitated. It is rather his intention to endeavour by negotiation and only outwardly favouring the pretensions of the claimant to that Musnud to obtain that which it was before in contemplation to do by the exertion of force. By this policy it is also expected to extort some advantages from the urgent requisitions made by Dhokul Singh through his agents in this camp for His Highness's assistance and support.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia had expressed his intention of adhering to the engagement contracted in the month of May last with the Government of Jaipore and urges the completion of it, the first instalment not having yet been liquidated; but the conduct of that durbar continues to be evasive. The Rajpoot states continue their negotiations towards effecting a mutual reconciliation sensible of the dangers to which they expose themselves by a want of unanimity and although the cause of Dhokul Singh in which the Jaipore Government before took so active a part has of late received some countenance here, Raja Jugget Singh does not now concern himself with the affairs or pretensions of that Chief to which he justly ascribes the calamities from which he has lately been released. The Rajah of Jodhpore's present conduct bears reference also to future continuance he has solicited of the aid of Jeswant Rao Holkar and of Meer Khan in the event of a rupture between him and this Government, and favourable answers have been returned to these solicitations.

Accounts have reached me from different sources which confirm the intelligence that the town of Soopoor has been taken possession of by Sindhia's troops under Baptiste's command. He had however, it is said, been repulsed with loss in an attack which he made upon the fort against which he afterwards erected Batteries. The Rajah being connected with the Rajah of Jaipore has solicited assistance from him to which effect directions have, I understand, been issued. A representation upon this subject will also probably be made to this Durbar by Rajah Jugget Singh.

A detachment of troops lately marched into the interior of Mewar for the purpose stated in my letter of the 10th instant to the Chief Secretary and Holkar's Ministers are also reported to have sent troops for the purpose of supporting their demands upon the Ranah of Udaipore. The territory now remaining in the possession of that Chief is very limited yielding, I am informed, a few lakhs of rupees only. Any considerable exactions therefore by Holkar may be supposed to affect the immediate interests of this Government. It has been stated that Jeswant Rao Holkar intended to take up his residence in Mysore on the Nerbudda but it was not determined whether he should be accompanied by the whole or a part only of his army.

Since the last communication I did myself the honour to make to your Lordship this army has marched in a north-easterly direction towards Ajmer. The combined objects of this movement were to effect the evacuation of that fort of which Balla Rao Inglia's troops had been in possession, to hold out delusive hopes to Dhokul Singh and the occupation of a position menacing to the Jodhpore frontier. The first of these has been accomplished:

Pandoo Rang, Balla Rao's brother, having retired from Ajmer towards Kishengarh on delivering up the fort to His Highness's officers, and in consequence of this event Balla Rao has experienced milder treatment.

Bapoojee Sindhia, who lately arrived near this Army, had yesterday a meeting with the Maharaja and his return will, it is supposed, produce some change in the state of affairs at this Durbar.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,
Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Further, Bapu Sahib Jadhav, having arrived from Ajmer & Kishengarh, on delivering up the fort to His Highness's officers, and in consequence of this event Balla Rao has experienced [illegible] treatment.

Bapuji Sindhia, who lately arrived near this Army, had yesterday a meeting with the Maharaja, and his return will, it is supposed, produce some change in the state of affairs at this Durbar.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Captain, Acting Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

PESHWA'S AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—The enclosure to this letter is a copy of Col. Close's address to the Governor-General reporting the desire of the Peshwa to have the points of difference between him and the Nizam regarding their possessions settled. He further desired to appoint a Sir Subah to his old possessions in Hindustan like Kalpi, Jhansi, etc. The Sir Subah was to collect his share of the revenue, i.e., one-third. Close pointed out to the Peshwa that that was not admissible according to the terms of the Treaty of Bassein. Ambaji Inglia's suggestion that the Peshcush payable to the Peshwa by the Chiefs of Jhansi, Saugor and Kalpi should be farmed to an agent of his, is also mentioned. The Peshwa's desire to act in co-operation with Sindhia and Holkar in Hindustan seems to be the objective.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 28th February 1807.

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my last address No. 26 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General, under date the 24th instant.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 15th instant, I have had an interview with Sadashiv Mankeshwar, at the instance of His Highness the Peshwa.

The Minister entered on business, by observing, that his health had been much impaired of late, and that, as he had recovered so far as to be able to travel without much inconvenience His Highness had been pleased to grant his permission to try the effects of a change of air, and that he accordingly proposed to visit the temple at Tuljapur, and some noted places of worship on the Kistna, that he expected to be able to make the tour in little more than two months; and that until his return, His Highness would not be absent from Poona. That on the Kistna, he might have an opportunity of improving the intercourse which subsisted between the Patwardhan family, and the Poona State, and also of reconciling to their duty the descendants of the late Malojee Rajah, who though possessing Serinjaumy lands, to a considerable amount continued to refuse obedience to His Highness's Government but that, whatever benefit he might derive from such a trip, or whatever his prospects of rendering service in the above respects, His Highness was reluctant that he should proceed without previously having my assent. In reply, I told the Minister, that as His Highness intended not to leave the seat of Government until his return, I could not perceive that any inconvenience was likely to arise from his absence; on the contrary, I trusted, his proposed tour would be equally advantageous to his health, and the interests of the Government. In reply, the Minister used some complimentary expressions to me, and said, that he should proceed in a few days but that His Highness was desirous, that before his departure, he should refer to me on a few points. He now enquired whether I had received any further information relative to the pending arbitration of differences between the Poona and Hyderabad Governments; adding, that the conduct of His Highness the Nizam's Amildars became more vexatious and oppressive every day. This enquiry I met, by observing that not long since I had addressed the Hon'ble the Governor General on the subject he had adverted to which mode it was unnecessary for me to renew it in my correspondence at the present period. That certainly complaints from both sides of the common frontier were frequent, but that I had no recollection of any unusual adverse behaviour on the part of the Nizam's servants, having recently occurred: that in any event, no considerable period had elapsed, since the papers relative to the subsisting differences had been forwarded to Fort William; and that no doubt the arbitration would be completed as early as could be reasonably expected, considering the numerous avocations of Government, and the intricacy of the subject.

The Minister then introduced the subject of Bundelkhund. He said, His Highness had not yet learned what portion of that province was to fall to the share of the Poona State; that the Chieftains of Kalpee, Jhansi, and Saugor though dependant on the Poona Government, scarcely acknowledged any allegiance to it, having long withheld their annual tribute; that, besides these Chieftains there were others, who held Serinjaumy lands of His Highness in Hindustan, such as the Ninihore Jaghirdar, Raja Bahadur and the Powar Jagirdar of Dhar; that such of those lands as had fallen under the authority of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and Jeswant Rao Holkar during the late troubles, had recently been relinquished by these Chiefs; but that, as the Peshwa had no force in Hindostan, many of the lands in question had been either laid waste, or seized by freebooters, and were consequently no ways available by the Poona State. That of the Peshcush formerly collected from Rajputana, and the different principalities to the east of that tract, one-third went to the house of Sindhia, one-third to the house of Holkar, and the remaining third to the Poona Government. That these two Chieftains continued to collect their shares of the paishcush having armies for the purpose on the spot; but that, the Peshwa's share was withheld because the Poona Government had ceased to have a Sirsoobah in Hindostan, with an army to represent its authority, and enforce payment of its just demands. The Minister then went into a history of the transaction; which formerly took place in Hindostan, between Mhadajee Sindhia, Tuckojee Holkar, and Alli Bahadur, and having finished this narration, informed me, that His Highness, desirous to recover his just rights and properties in the northern provinces, had lately deliberated on the expediency of reviving the appointment of a Sirsoobah in Hindostan, for the purposes above noticed, and that, as Narsingh Khande Rao, the Vinchoor Jagirdar, possessed hereditary lands in Hindostan, and always proved himself to possess great prudence, and to be firmly attached to the Poona Government, His Highness had it in mind to vest him with the appointment.

Finding that the Minister now waited to receive my sentiments, I began by expressing my belief that it would be entirely satisfactory to the Hon'ble the Governor General to see the Poona Government in possession of all those rights which could clearly attach to it, consistently with the stipulations of the Treaty of Bassein and without endangering the great object of that Treaty, the general tranquillity of India; that the appointment, however, which His Highness proposed to receive, appeared to me more applicable to the ancient state of affairs, connected with the Mahratta Nation, than to the defined system of arrangement established by the Treaty, which I had just alluded to; that no doubt, it might be practicable for some of His Highness's Sirdars to recover some of the lands in Hindostan from which they collected revenue in former times; but that from what I had just heard, His Highness appeared to propose to himself the accomplishment of objects of a much greater extent and difficulty. That I did not possess knowledge sufficient to enable me to speak precisely respecting the Chieftains of Kalpee, Jhansi and Saugor; but that in regard to the Rajput principalities, and others adjoining, it was evident that they possessed considerable power, and could not be coerced but by an army of great strength. That in deliberating on the adoption of plans of action, it was indispensable to consider, whether the means which could be employed, were proportionate to the ends proposed, that I much doubted whether His Highness's Government could afford to employ a respectable force in Hindostan and that to fail in the project meditated by His Highness would not only disturb the general tranquillity, but be productive of consequences to his Government of a nature which it could not be necessary for me to describe. After a little consideration, the Minister assured me that the Peshwa would even adhere to the Treaty of Bassein, and never adopt any scheme of consequence without previously consulting the British Government. That in proceeding on the proposed project, His Highness would be careful to avoid entering on any point which could occasion the smallest difference or discussion with the principal Chieftains, Sindhia, Holkar, and the Rajah of Berar, with whom we had adjusted treaties of peace. That His Highness's view was to recover his undoubted acknowledged rights in Hindostan, without interfering with the Chiefs before mentioned. That His Highness would have an army as usual under his Sirsubah, and that, should the tributary Rajahs refuse to discharge the annual Paishcush due to the Poona State, His Highness's Sirsubah might act in conjunction with the armies of Sindhia and Holkar. Here I requested the Minister to call to mind the stipulations and objects of the Treaty of Bassein, to which I had before adverted. I begged him to recollect that by the arrangement lately adjusted in India, Sindhia and Holkar were to be regarded as at the head of independent Governments, and that, according to the 17th article of the Treaty of Bassein, His Highness engaged not to enter into any negotiation or agreement with any state whatever, without the consent of the British Government. I added that I had reason to be convinced that the operation of the Treaty of Bassein proved to be entirely satisfactory to His Highness; that the repose and comfort which His Highness enjoyed under that instrument was evidently to be attributed to the general system which it established to the circumstance particularly of his Government being relieved from all connection with the two Mahratta States, just noticed; that in so far as I could judge, the Hon'ble the Governor General was unalterably impressed with this sentiment; and that I should be wanting in candour did I not offer it as my conviction that he would never be prevailed on to any part of His Highness's Forces being employed in conjunction or co-operation with the troops of Sindhia or Holkar, as he (the Minister) had proposed.

In reply, the Minister repeated his assurances that His Highness would never act inconsistently with his engagements to which he would minutely conform; that on the present important occasion, His Highness wished to take my sentiments, and had accordingly desired me to be referred to. That from what I had explained His Highness would now perceive what parts of the project were impracticable, and would accordingly be guided by my opinions. That the plan of appointing the Sersoobah might take place with advantage to His Highness's Government, without exposing it to difficulties, or endangering the general tranquillity. That the Vinchoor Jaghirdar would be suitably instructed, would abstain from entering on any undertaking without the assent of the British Gentlemen in employ in Hindostan, which would control his conduct to the degree requisite. I observed that when the Sersoobah should be employed in the central parts of Hindustan, he would be far removed from the eye of the Poona Government; and that, unless the powers he was to exercise, and the specific services he was to perform should be made known to the British Government his very nomination might lead to unforeseen consequences of a nature highly injurious to the alliance. That accordingly, the Hon'ble the Governor General would expect to be furnished with minute information relative to the lands to be recovered, the tribute to be received and enforced, and every other object in view, from the appointment, previous to its taking effect. This information, the Minister assured me, I should be furnished with. He then adverted again to the reliance which might be reposed in the prudence and discretion of the Vinchoor Jaghirdar, and observed that a district belonging to this Sirdar, named Ochaur, had been formerly seized by Ambajee Inglia, who transferred it to the Duttea Rajah, from whose possession it had fallen under the authority of the British Government. In answer, I said, that I had never heard the subject mentioned before; but that I should advert to it in my public correspondence. The Minister allowed this point to pass without further remark, and soon after resumed the subject of Bundelkhund, saying, that the Poona State conferred a Jagheer in Kalpee, on the Nabob Ghazeeood Deen Khan; but that, during the commotions in Hindostan, an Agent, whom he employed in his absence, managed by treacherous conduct to establish himself in the Jaghire which he still enjoyed in defiance of the Nabob, his master; who was incessant in his solicitations to the Peshwa, to procure his restoration to the property. On this point, also, I confessed I was not informed, when the Minister replied that he would send me a memorandum on the subject for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor General.

On the 20th the Minister proceeded on his tour, and it may be concluded that no business of any consequence will be transacted during his absence. The Vinchoor Jaghirdar at present attends His Highness; and although it might be for his interest to visit Hindostan and examine his districts in Malwa he would scarcely consent to enter on the office proposed for him, and undertake so long a march, without pecuniary aid, to an amount which His Highness would probably be little disposed to afford.

I have learned from a source which deserved credit that the subject of the Peshcush due from lands in Hindostan to His Highness's Government was first agitated at the Durbar by an Agent of Ambajee Inglia who made propositions on the part of his principal, that the Paishcush, payable to the Poona State by the Chiefs of Culpee, Jhansi and Saugor, should be given in farm to Inglia, at a fixed annual amount; but that those propositions were rejected by the Durbar, as likely to be objected to, by the British Government.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona : B. CLOSE.
The 24th February 1807. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 2.—In the enclosure addressed to the Governor General dated 5th May, Close reports what discussions he had with Byajee Naik, the Diwan of the Peshwa in sending Balaji Koonjur to the Court of Sindhia. He pointed out that any military co-operation between the Sindhia and the Peshwa for aiding the appointment of a Sirsubahdar in Hindostan that the latter desired was a breach of the Treaty of Bassein. He also adverts to the disputes about the Peshwa's dues from the Nizam, Baroda and Bundelkhand.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, ESQ., RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 12th May 1807.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of my address No. 30 to the Hon'ble the Governor General, dated 5th instant.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR GEORGE H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HON'BLE SIR,

On the 3rd instant, I received another visit from Byaji Naik. He told me that since our last interview, he had waited on the Peshwa and communicated to His Highness the particulars that passed at it, and that His Highness only reiterated the assurances which had been formerly coveyed to me.

Byajee Naik then said that as I had been earnest in my enquiries to ascertain whether any Karkoon had proceeded from Poona to join Balajee Koonjur besides the one, who went to receive charge of his family, he had consulted the Peshwa particularly on this point and that His Highness on recollecting replied that when it was resolved that Ballajee Koonjur should return to Sindhia's Durbar a Brahmin was ordered to join and reside with him as an Akbar Navis, and for no other purpose whatever. Bayajee Naik now observed that his principal object in his present visit was to show by desire of the Peshwa four letters which His Highness had lately received from Sindhia. They were accordingly produced and read. Two of them related to Bapoo Angria and the attack on Colabbah. One acknowledged the receipt of the presents sent to Sindhia by His Highness at the last Til Festival and the fourth referred to a letter which His Highness had addressed to Sindhia, in reply to one brought from that Chieftain by Anabah Jadoo, announcing the appointment of the latter as Vakeel at the Poona Durbar, and soliciting that His Highness would receive and treat him with the attentions due to his station.

This fourth dispatch from Sindhia couched in terms of great respect and devotion towards the Peshwa. It gives His Highness the title of Lord while Sindhia styles himself his servant. It refers to the intimacies which formerly subsisted between Sindhia and His Highness at Poona, refers His Highness to Anabah Jadoo who could explain the sentiments of attachment entertained by Sindhia towards His Highness's person and Government states the solicitude of Sindhia to have the means of rendering any service to His Highness, observes that when Balajee Koonjur should return to Sindhia's Durbar His Highness's objects might be fully communicated to him, Sindhia while Anabah Jadhoo residing at Poona would have the means of making corresponding communications at His Highness's Court.

When these letters had been read Byajee Naik said that His Highness had desired him to acquaint me that the answers to be sent to them should be regulated by my sentiments and advice to which I made a suitable answer. After a short pause, I requested the attention of Byajee Naik to the tenor of my discourse at our last meeting, begged he would recollect whether all I had said did not go to express my apprehension that the departure of Balajee Koonjur for Sindhia's Durbar was connected with some plan of the Peshwa's Government for obtaining the assistance of Sindhia or the co-operation of his troops for the accomplishment of certain objects for the Poona Government and thus reviving the ancient relations which held between the Mahratta Chieftains and the Poona State and under which His Highness's authority had been usurped, his territories desolated, and his person exposed to imminent peril. I then referred to the style and terms of the fourth letter from Sindhia just read, in which he addressed the Peshwa as his Lord styling himself his servant, dwelt on his devotion to His Highness's Government adverted to the expected arrival of Balajee Koonjur and expressed his solicitude to have the means of accomplishing any of His Highness's objects, and entreated Byajee Naik to reflect seriously whether such a communication from Sindhia to His Highness at this period did not afford strong ground of presumption that measures had been actually pursued by the Peshwa's Durbar for the purpose of obtaining the co-operation of Sindhia's Troops with those to be employed by the Peshwa under the proposed Sirsoobah in Hindostan and thus renewing the ancient relations which I had just alluded to, and which His Highness was sensible, had been entirely abolished by the Treaty of Bassein, and the various treaties since concluded. Byajee Naik smiled and said the Vakeels of the Mahratta Chieftains resided at Poona and would no doubt agitate various questions and offer extravagant suggestions from time to time to promote the interests of their masters. That it was obvious beyond doubt that the Chieftains themselves as well as their Vakeels would be extremely happy to revive the ancient relations I had spoken of, and thus add to their power and consequence at the Peshwa's expense, but that His Highness was not now to be cajoled by their flatteries or their professions, that common policy would induce His Highness to use polite and amicable exterior towards them but that past experience would assuredly withhold him from ever putting any trust in them again or pursuing any step likely to injure that alliance which had placed him beyond their reach and which he found so suitable to his interests and wishes. That the British Government might confidently rely on the sincerity of His Highness's fixed disposition to cherish the alliance, and that in such case it would not be necessary to instance that the very circumstance of His Highness having communicated the letter I had commented on, was a proof that it had not grown out of any improper step and could not point to any exceptionable intention. Here I judged it proper to avoid pushing the subject any further. I could have asked Byajee Naik under what consideration it was observed to me by the Dewan that His Highness's troops under the proposed Sirsoobahdar in Hindostan might when necessary act conjointly with the forces of Sindhia and Holkar; but as a jealousy had long subsisted between Sadashiv Mankeshwar and Byajee Naik I apprehended that the question would fail to be productive of any true light. From what has now transpired it appears to me that the information which I formerly received of Sindhia's adherents here having endeavoured to procure the forming of the Peshwa payable by the Bundela Chieftains for Ambajee Inglia was well founded, and that before it was resolved at the Durbar to consult me on the proposed plan of appointing a Sirsoobahdar to Hindostan the various points agitated by Sadashiv Mankeshwar at the meeting which I had with him on that subject had been discussed with Sindhia's Vakeel.

It cannot be doubted that Mankeshwar has for some time past felt great anxiety on those subjects in particular 1st the adjustment of subsisting differences between the Hyderabad and Poona Government, 2nd the adjustment of claims and accounts between the Poona and the Baroda Governments, and 3rd the collection of the tribute due from the Bundela Chieftains and the ascertainment of the useless districts which are to remain with the Peshwa's Government in Bundelkhund and it is not improbable that his impatience may have led him to be reconciled to measure of great imprudence and even to pass them on His Highness.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Poona :
The 5th May 1807.

Letter No. 3.—The enclosure is a copy of the letter that Colonel Close sent to the Governor General. He reports that the Peshwa had proceeded to Wai with his brother Chimnajee both of whom are on friendly terms now. The proposal of the Peshwa to appoint Vinchoor Jagirdar as his Sirsoobahdar in Hindustan is not well received by the Holkar and Sindhia.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.
TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 31st May 1807.

I have the honour to forward for your information, a copy of my address No. 31 to the Honourable the Governor General dated yesterday.

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE H. BARLOW, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

HONOURABLE SIR,

At the approach of the last Eclipse, His Highness the Peshwa proceeded to Wahi, in order to pay his devotions at the source of the Kistna. His religious habits required that he should make this trip, and I did not wish to discourage it especially as the Dawk runs from hence to Wahi in a few hours. His Highness is accompanied by his brother Chimnajee Appa, which shows that the footing established between them by the late paper of agreement improves.

In the absence of His Highness and the Dewan, the affairs of the Government are conducted by Ragobah, Paishkar of Sadashiv Mankeshwar, Byajee Naik, and Balajee Punt Gohtah.

Sadashiv Mankeshwar is paying his devotions to an idol called, Chittumbra Swamy at a Pagoda, situated between the Kistna and the Toombuddra. He is attended by Bapoojee Ganesh Goklah, and Appah Desai, and the other Sardars, having a numberous retinue. On his return to the Kistna, he is to be entertained in a splendid manner by the Patwardhans, after which he will join the Peshwa at Wahi. His Highness may be expected to arrive here again in about 15 days.

I have had the pleasure to receive from Mr. Mercer, a copy of his address to you, Honourable Sir, No. 67, dated the 29th April.

The Peshwa has no agent with Holkar, the person to whom Mr. Mercer alludes belongs, I believe, to Ballabah the Vinchoor Dewan, who keeps a Karkoon with Holkar, and one with Sindhia, who serve principally as news writers.

It is satisfactory to observe, from Mr. Mercer's correspondence, that the measure proposed by this Durbar of employing the Vinchoor Jaghirdar, as Sirsoobahdar in Hindostan, does not seem to have been agitated with the consent or knowledge of Sindhia or Holkar.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona :
The 30th May 1807.

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 4.—In the enclosure which is a copy of his letter to the Governor General, dated the 28th June, Colonel Close reports that on the 12th June the Peshwa celebrated his nuptials with uncommon magnificence. The bride came from an ancient Brahmin family of Dhamdheres in Poona.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 29th June 1807.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of my address No. 33 to the Honourable the Governor General, dated yesterday.

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE H. BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HONOURABLE SIR,

The nuptials of His Highness the Peshwa commenced on the 12th instant and were celebrated with uncommon magnificance.

Yesterday evening, I proceeded to pay a visit of compliment to His Highness accompanied by the gentlemen of the residency. He received us in full Durbar and entertained us with music and dancing.

The nephew and successor of the late Vinchoor Jagirdar attended His Highness, and was introduced to us by his desire. When the evening was nearly spent I presented His Highness with jewels and other gifts, such as the occasion required. On rising to take leave I was informed by Anand Rao that His Highness proposed to repair shortly to Shassoor and afterwards to proceed from thence to Pandharpore to be present at the annual festival which is to be celebrated there in the course of the next month. Sadashiv Mankeshwar has arrived at Kolhapore and will probably join His Highness at Pandharpore.

Poona : B. CLOSE,

The 28th June 1807. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 5.—In the enclosure which Close addressed to Governor-General he intimates that Sadashiv Mankeshwar had marched south and was visited by the principal chieftains on the Krishna like Raste, Appa Desai, and several members of the Patwardhan family.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 15th August 1807.

I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of my last address, No. 34, to the Hon'ble the Governor General.

To—THE HON'BLE SIR G. H. BARLOW BART, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

His Highness the Peshwa having pursued his intention of visiting Pandharpore during the celebration of the annual festival returned hither on the 7th instant. He arrived in time to preside at the Dutechena Festival in the city of Poona, which appears to have been more numerously attended this season, than at any former period, since His Highness's accession.

Sadashiv Mankeshwar, on his excursion to the southward, seems to have availed himself of every occasion that offered to promote the objects of His Highness's Government. He was visited by the whole of the Jaghirdars south of the Kistna. From some of them he obtained arrears of tribute, and with others' he formed settlements for regulating their future payments. By the Rajah of Kolhapore, and the principal Chieftains on the Kistna, such as Rastiah, Appah Desai and the several members of the Patwardhan family, he was received with every mark of attention and respect, and entertained with great magnificance. He had it originally in view to inspire Rastiah and the Patwardhans with confidence in the Peshwa's intention towards them, and to conciliate their attachment to the Poona State. In this important point he seems to have had considerable success, as Rastiah, having had an interview with the Minister, paid his respects to the Peshwa at Pandharpore, and now resides at his family habitation in Poona; and, but a few days since, I received a letter from Appah Sahib Patwardhan, intimating that he had been called to Poona by the Peshwa, and that he should accordingly wait on His Highness without delay.

It was the Minister's intention to have come on from Tasgaon direct to this place; by desire of the Peshwa, however, he turned off to Pandharpore, from whence he arrived with his Highness.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona :
The 14th August 1807.

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 6.—In the enclosure addressed to the Governor-General, dated the 26th August 1807, Close details the points which were discussed at an interview with the Peshwa. The Peshwa wanted to know how it was that the Jagirs in Kalpi formerly bestowed upon Ghaisuddin Khan were actually in the possession of Nawab Nasiruddoulah; that the Taluqs of Ouchar (Orchha) belonging to Vinchoor Jagirdar had been seized by the Datiah Rajah and what measures had been

adopted by the British in relation to Nana Govind and Shiv Rao, in Bundelkhand. Close explained these points. But when the desire of the Peshwa to appoint a Sirsubahdar to Hindustan was made known he objected. But when it was pointed out that the Sirsubahdar would act in consultation with the British authorities in Hindustan, the Resident replied that he would only mention the point in his official dispatches to Governor General.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 26th August 1807.

I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of my address No. 1 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General under date the 26th instant.

TO—THE HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to refer to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's dispatches of the 9th March, 2nd and 14th April.

2. In consequence of the sentiments and instructions which they conveyed for my guidance, it remained with me to satisfy the enquiries of the Peshwa's Minister relative to the Jaghire in Kalpi formerly conferred by the Poona State on Ghazioodduin Khan, and the Taluks of Ouchar belonging to the Jaghirdar of Vinchoor, and further to make the Durbar acquainted with the measures adopted by the British Government in relation to the Chieftains Nana Govind and Shiv Rao, and for the purpose of occupying and settling the portions of Bundelkhund transferred to the authority of the Hon'ble Company by the Poona State. Anxious to make the necessary communications on those subjects, I procured a meeting with Sadashiv Mankeshwar on the 24th instant. As I had previously apprized him of the object of the interview, we soon entered on business.

3. On the first article namely, the Jaghire given to the late Ghazioodeen Khan, I informed the Minister, that found the Nabob Nasir Uddowlah in possession of this Jaghire when our troops first entered Bundelkhund; and that as he manifested a proper disposition towards the British authority and that of the Poona State, he was permitted to continue in possession of the Jaghire and treated with friendly attention and respect; that, at a subsequent period, when the Nabob Maullah Jah laid claim to the Jagheer by right of inheritance, the documents exhibited by him and Nasir Uddoulah, respectively, were carefully investigated by order of the British Government; but that, as the vouchers produced by each party were contradictory, and no means were obtainable to determine which were authentic and valid, the investigation

was dropped without a decision. I then gave the Minister translations of the Documents which had been produced by Nasiruddoulah, in support of his right to the Jaghire, observing, that the papers exhibited on the other side, were in possession of the Durbar; and that, as the concern referred wholly to the Poona State, the British Government had no intention to take any interest in the determination of the point in dispute, but hoped that the decision would be so conducted as not to occasion any disturbance in the Jaghire or districts adjacent to it.

4. The Minister satisfied with this communication, said that His Highness the Peshwa was disposed, in justice, to put Moulah Jah in possession of the Jagheer, as the rightful heir of his father; but would cause the paper produced by Nasiruddoulah to be inspected by the opposite party and proceed to determine the matter in dispute at a future period.

5. Having dismissed the first article, I proceeded to satisfy the Minister in regard to the second, viz., the statement of the Vinchoor Jaghiredar, that his taluks of Ouchar, etc., had been seized by the Dutteah Rajah, and transferred by him to the British Government. I reminded the Minister that when he first agitated this subject, I had confidently expressed my opinion that it could not refer to any matter of fact. I then explained the substance of our agreement with the Dutteah Rajah, and pointed out that our connection was entirely disinterested; and that, no territorial transaction had ever occurred between him and the Company's Government. The Minister, after some discussion, allowed that the statement of the Vinchoor Jaghirdar was materially erroneous but maintained that the Talooks in question were forcibly seized by the Dutteah Rajah, from whose possession they had lately passed into the hands of Ambajee Inglia, or Dowlat Rao Sindhia. That beyond all doubts the Taluks did belong to the Vinchoor Jagirdar, the faithful servant of the Poona Government, that a short time since the Vakeel of the Jaghirdar at Sindhia's Durbar, finding that this Chieftain declined to restore the Taluks referred himself to Mr. Mercer on the subject, that in consequence, Mr. Mercer had interested himself with Sindhia to procure restitution of the Taluks, but without success; and that, of late, Sindhia had privately told the Vakeel not to trouble Mr. Mercer any more, and that the Taluks should be restored to the Jaghirdar, if he would pay a handsome sum for the restitution. In reply I observed that although I corresponded with Mr. Mercer, he had never noticed any of the circumstances just mentioned. That I had reason to think that the Taluks had been seized in the first instance, by Ambajee Inglia, and been by him transferred to the Dutteah Rajah who in such case, had only restored them of late to Inglia, that many of the claims of the Mahratta Sardars, to lands in Hindustan had been impaired by a variety of circumstances, that some Taluks of the Vinchoor Jaghirdar situated to the eastward of Ujjain, had been lately restored to him by Sindhia without a reference to the British Government, and that, it was

not improbable, that the restitution of those which he still retained, might be procured by similar means. The Minister said that he could not agree with me on this point; that it was unjust in Sindhia to demand money for Talooks of which in propriety, he should never have possessed himself—that the interference of the British authority was evidently requisite and that, if I should address a letter to Mr. Mercer on the subject, Sindhia would no longer decline to make the restitution. I told the Minister that I had, on a former occasion, addressed Mr. Mercer respecting the Vinchoor claims, generally, and that I could not think a second letter necessary; but that I should detail what had now passed on this article, in my public correspondence. Here I changed to the subject of the third article the measures adopted by the British Government in relation to the Chieftains Nana Govind and Sivrao.

6. After having given the Minister a brief account of the conduct observed by Nana Govind, when the British troops entered Bundelkhand, the result of his unprovoked hostility, his subsequent submission; and the consideration and indulgence shown to him by the British Government in admitting him to the re-possession of territories which he had lost by his own unworthiness, I particularized the motives which induced the British Government to retain the fort and greater part of the district of Kalpee, for which it had given the Nana a just equivalent in adjacent lands, besides restoring to his possession the District of Mahobah, which had been wrested from him by Himmat Bahadur. The Minister listened to me with great attention, and when I had assured myself that he had comprehended the whole of my discourse, I presented him with two papers, one containing a list of Taluks in Kalpee with an estimate of their revenue, retained by the British Government; and the other containing similar information respecting the Taluks given to the Nana in exchange. The Minister inspected and compared those papers and then made enquiry respecting the situation of the Talooks given in exchange, relatively with Kalpee. I replied that I could not speak with certainty on the point; but that, I had reason to think, the lands given in exchange, were situated on the western border of Kalpee, near the Betwa river. The Minister now expressed a wish to be informed of the transactions which had taken place, in regard to Sivrow of Jhansi; and I observed, in answer, that I had but little to communicate in regard to this Chieftain. That when our troops entered Bundelkhund, he manifested a proper disposition towards the British and the Poona Governments, that he accordingly continued to enjoy his ancient territories, that with a view to promote the benefits of good neighbourhood, the British Government had concluded agreements with both Nana Govind and Sivrow, of which I should furnish the Durbar with translated copies. I then described the outline of those agreements, specifying that Saugor, which was supposed to be under the authority of Nana Govind, did not come within the scope of the agreements. With these arrangements, the Minister appeared to be satisfied.

7. After a short conversation, however, relative to the improper conduct of Nana Govind, when our troops entered Bundelkhund, he revived the subject of the appointment of a Sirsoobahdar by the Poona Government for Hindostan, observing that considerable arrears of tribute were due from the Bundela Chieftains and that there were other Chieftains in Hindostan, who owed allegiance to the Peshwa, such as the Chieftains of the Raje-Warrah territories, the Powar Chieftains, etc., and that with a Sirsoobahdar in Hindustan His Highness would have the means of recovering for his dependants, the lands wrested from them to the northward at different periods, and of realizing the arrears long due to the Poona State.

8. Having heard all that the Minister had to state on this point, I observed that he could not be unmindful of the forcible objections which I had formerly made to the appointment which he had just spoken of, that those objections had been since confirmed by the Hon'ble the Governor-General, that it could not be necessary for me again to repeat, that the appointment in question could only be considered as applicable to the loose and unsettled state of things that was so apparent in Hindustan, previous to the Treaty of Bassein, and no ways consistent with the general system established in India, under the above instrument and the several treaties subsequently concluded with the different Mahratta Chieftains, as presiding over so many independant States. Byajee Naik, who was sitting near the Minister, interposed by observing, that no measure would ever be adopted in reference to the former state of things in Hindustan, and that existing treaties would be strictly conformed to. The Minister allowed this remark to pass without notice; and I proceeded to state that the British Government would not object to any measure on the part of the Poona State, calculated to realize its just demands on its acknowledged tributaries, under existing engagements; and that, of course, His Highness the Peshwa was at liberty to make any appointment which he found to be requisite for such purpose. The Minister then said that he comprehended the grounds on which the appointment for Hindustan was held to be objectionable, that the Peshwa's claims on Nana Govind and Sivrow were of a domestic nature, that the arrears due from them were considerable; and that accordingly His Highness would appoint an officer to proceed to Bundelkhund for the purpose of adjusting those demands; that, of course, this officer would be in communication with the British gentleman holding the principal authority in Bundelkhund, and would act under his suggestions and advice; and that, besides collecting the tribute from the two Chieftains above noticed, he might be employed to ascertain and occupy the districts included in the portion of Bundelkhund, which remained with the Poona State. Here I assured the Minister that I believed it would be perfectly satisfactory to the British Government to see His Highness the Peshwa adopt measures for the purpose of securing his interests and enforcing his just demands in Bundelkhund; that

the appointment of an officer by the Poona Government, for such specific purpose, appeared to me to be unobjectionable; but that, it was obvious, the appointment should not be conferred but on a person of good abilities and great discretion; and that the duties he was to execute, and the quarter in which he was to be employed should be publicly known.

9. The Minister agreed with me in these points and expressed his hopes that as the officer for Bundelkhund would act under the suggestions and advice of the principal British Gentleman in that quarter, the Hon'ble Company's Government would take an interest in promoting a proper disposition in the two Bundela Chieftains, Nana Govind and Siv Rao towards the Poona State, and impressing them with the necessity of their adhering to their allegiance to the Peshwa, and discharging their tribute justly due from them to His Highness's Government. I answered that His Highness received daily proofs of the interest which the Hon'ble Company's Government constantly took in promoting the objects of his State, and that I should not fail to notice the hope which he (the Minister) had expressed, in my official dispatches. The different subjects, on which I had requested the interview now terminated.

10. The Minister afterwards told me that he had received information of your Lordship's arrival at Madras, and made enquiries whether your Lordship had safely arrived at Calcutta. I replied that I had just been honoured with official advices of your Lordship's safe arrival and of your having entered on the Office of Governor General, and that, in a few days, I should doubtless have the honour of contacting the Peshwa, and presenting him with an address from your Lordship, conveying an intimation of those events.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Poona:
The 26th August 1807.

Letteer No. 7.—This is an enclosure to Close's letter to Jenkins. Close reports that Mahadeo Rastia had given up his inimical attitude towards the Peshwa and had joined him, and professed loyalty to the British Government and the Peshwa.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 18th September 1807.

When Mahadeo Rao Rastiah arrived here sometime ago from Pandharpore, in company with His Highness the Peshwa, he sent me a polite message, expressive of his attachment to the British interests, and the Poona Government, intimating that it was his wish to have joined the Peshwa at an earlier period, but that ill health detained him at his Jaghere and that as he had now taken up his residence in my neighbourhood it was his intention to do himself the pleasure of paying me a visit. I replied to this message in terms of cordiality and sometime afterwards learnt that Mahadeo Rao Rastiah had communicated his wish on the above subject to His Highness the Peshwa, who had signified his acquiescence.

2. A few days since, Byajee Naik called on me to say that Mahadeo Rao Rastiah proposed to visit me on the 16th instant at noon. He accordingly arrived at that time attended by his nephews, Sham Rao Rastiah and Ramchandra Rao Rastiah and a numerous retinue.

3. As the conduct of this Chieftain in forgetting former animosities and voluntarily joining the Peshwa, and submitting himself to His Highness's Government has set a very desirable example to the other Jaghirdars on the Kistnah, I thought it but due to his merits to receive him in the particular marks of attention and respect.

4. During the visit he repeated in great part, what he had formerly communicated to me by message, expressed his satisfaction at the general repose, which prevailed in the Deccan, spoke of the Peshwa in terms of the greatest respect, and of the gratification he should experience in accompanying His Highness in his intended progress through the southern districts and to the temple at Sondoor.

5. At the close of the visit, I presented Mahadeo Rao Rastia with gifts suitable to the rank and antiquity of his house.

Letter No. 8.—This is an enclosure to the letter Close wrote to Jenkins. Close conveys information about certain monetary transactions, and the claims of Yeshwant Rao Holkar to certain village, houses and other properties, which he wanted the Peshwa to transfer to him.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 3rd November 1807.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that of the sum recoverable by Jeswant Rao Holkar's Government from that of Hyderabad, viz. 49,748 rupees, 22,000 rupees have been paid to Khandu Pant, Holkar's Vakeel, at this station and I have reason to think that the remainder will be discharged in the course of a short period. Rajah Govind Buksh, agreeably to orders from the Durbar of Hyderabad, remitted the whole amount by a bill on a Soucar here, in favour of Khandu Pant, and the account ought to have been adjusted accordingly, upwards of a month since, but the Soucar, on whom the bill was drawn, has used so many evasions to screen himself from payment that even the 22,000 rupees have been obtained from him with great difficulty. As he has been prevailed on to honour the bill to a certain extent, he cannot well avoid the discharge the remaining sum due, and to this, he is urged daily by a person on the part of Rajah Govind Buksh.

2. I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's notice a copy of a letter to my address, from Mr. Mercer, enclosing an extract of a letter from Jeswant Rao Holkar to his Vakeel at Dowlat Rao Sindhia's Durbar, in which he observes, that Chandore, Amber, Sevagaon, and the other places in the Deccan, have been restored except the Serinjaumy and the Muttesiddies' villages, which were anciently allotted and accordingly enjoyed. That the treaty stipulates for the restoration of the Mahals, with the forts, the Serinjaumy and Muttesiddies' villages, with every description of paternal property; but that, Colonel Close makes some difficulty relative to those latter points.

3. It would appear that Jeswant Rao Holkar, in writing to his Vakeel, had not referred to the Treaty of Peace, which stipulates only for the restitution of those forts and districts which were taken from him during the War and remained, at the date of the Treaty, in possession of the English. These forts and districts, were all restored long since, as I had formerly the honour to report, and so much was Khandu Punt satisfied on this point, that he formally expressed his acknowledgements to me for the pains I had taken to facilitate and complete the restitution.

4. It is true that at some of the conversations, which I had with Khandoo Punt, shortly after his arrival here, he thew out hints that there were points beyond the stipulations of the treaty on which he trusted to experience the aid of my friendship; but I never omitted to explain to him, that in every transaction between us, I should be guided by the terms of the treaty alone, the standard by which all claims on either side were to be proved and determined ; notwithstanding he uniformly received this reply from me, yet after the restitution of the places required by the treaty had been completed, he began to speak more plainly, and adverted specifically to the villages and paternal property alluded to in the accompanying extract of Holkar's letter, and expressed his hope that I would interest myself with the Peshwa's Durbar, in order to obtain His Highness's consent for their being restored. I again pointed out that the treaty was my guide, and that I had no authority to proceed in any transaction beyond the scope of its stipulations. That, in respect to villages which had been allotted at an early period by the Poona State to Muttesiddies, and military officers, who served with the Holkar family, the disposal of them was with His Highness the Peshwa, and no ways referable to the Treaty of Peace ; and that, accordingly, respect for the authority of His Highness's Government, could not permit me to interfere. Here the subject terminated.

5. The particular villages alluded to by Khundo Punt, are detailed in the enclosed list for your Lordship's information. As Jeswant Rao Holkar has renewed the subject of them, I have given a memorandum to the Peshwa's Minister, Anand Rao, requesting information relative to the several items, pointing out particularly the occasions and dates on which each article of property was resumed by the Poona State. The Peshwa's absence may prevent me from obtaining this information soon but when procured, it shall be immediately transmitted for your Lordship's notice.

Translation of a memorandum of claims alluded by Khundo Punt, on the part of Jeswant Rao Holkar.

1. Paternal claims of Deshmookya, Patel-kya, Chougolky, Gaurkya, etc. (N. B.—These titles have certain privileges annexed).

2. Right of granting Dustuks.

3. Sundries, *viz.*, the Village of Bhowaly, in the Kashigaon pergunna, assigned for the support of Priests at Pandharpore. Some villages in the Karnatic, (i.e. towards Meritch) Pasture lands at Corygaon, on the Gawhalya Hills, and at Jejury.

4. Ferry Boats at Koregaon and Pandharpore. Houses and gardens at Poona, *viz.*, Holkar's own, Ganpat Rao Gadre's and Ganpat Rao Narain's.

5. Villages assigned to the following Serinjaumy Sirdars, *viz.*, Wagh, Bully, Lajmetty, and Matcar.

6. Villages assigned to the following Muttesiddies, *viz.*, Ganpat Rao Narain, Madho Rao Eshwant Keshao Rao, Ram Pelsiker, Malhar Rao Ramchandra Parneirker, Parashere Dadaji, Visaji Samrajrang Rao Mahipat Purendri—Moonshy.

7. House and gardens at Jejury.

A true translation.

C. GOWAN,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Extract of a letter from Jeswant Rao Holkar to Ramchand Kashi, his Vakeel with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

The Pergunnahs of Chandore, Amber, and Sevagaon, with the other Mahals in the Deccan, have been all restored, except the Serinjaumy and Muttesiddies' villages, which anciently were allotted and enjoyed by them. By the treaty the restoration of the Mahals with the forts and Serinjaumy and Muttesiddy villages, and paternal property of all descriptions, was stipulated. Now, Colonel Close makes some difficulty regarding the Serinjaumy and Muttesiddy villages, on this account, you must explain all these circumstances to Mr. Mercer that he may write to the Colonel for the purpose of putting an end to all difficulties relative to the villages in question.

A true translation.

C. GOWAN,
Acting Resident at Poona.

To—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Ramchand Kashi, the Vakeel of Jeswant Rao Holkar at this Durbar, waited upon me a few days ago, with a complimentary letter from Holkar; and referring me to the Vakeel for some particulars which he wished to communicate. The enclosed Persian statement is what he delivered to me, as a translation of an extract of Holkar's letter to him. I told the Vakeel that I had no doubt that every place, which Holkar was entitled to by the treaty, had been restored to him; but that, at all events, the discussion of this point ought to be carried on by his Vakeel at Poona, with you personally. Ramchand Kashi replied that the statement had been made by the Vakeel at Poona to Holkar; and that his master wished me to interest myself in getting the point adjusted. To this I answered that I could no further interfere on the subject than by transmitting the statement to you; and that I would inform him of your answer when I received it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp Near Rautghur: GROME MERCER,
The 30th September 1807. Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 9.—This is an enclosure to Close's letter to Jenkins, dated the 19th January 1808. Close reports that Byaji Naik on behalf of the Peshwa had taken exception to Sindhia's proceeding in levying contributions on the Seranjamy lands of the Poona State and in attacking Bhopal and Rautgarh. Byaji Naik requested that the matter should be referred to the British Resident with Sindhia. After Byaji Naik had gone came Anabah Jadoo Sindhia's agent at Poona to inform Close that his master the Sindhia had levied contributions under pressure of financial stringency.

From—COLONEL CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, the 16th January 1808.

On the 14th instant, I received a visit from Byajee Naik who came accompanied by Ballabah the Dewan of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar. I apprehended that the object of the visit was to make some representation relative to the proceedings of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and soon found, that in my conjecture, I was not mistaken. Byajee Naik began to discourse by adverting to the papers which I had recently received from the Durbar, setting forth that Dowlat Rao Sindhia had renewed his demands on the Saranjamy lands of the

Vinchoor Jagheerdar in Malwa, and then brought forth from amongst some papers which he held in his hand, an original letter of late date addressed by Dowlat Rao Sindhia to Anabah Jadoo his Vakeel at this Durbar a copy of which, with an English translation, I have the honour to enclose. On the contents of this letter Byajee Naik observed that a comment could scarcely be necessary. That by his own confession, Dowlat Rao Sindhia had proceeded to levy contributions on the Seranjamy lands of the Poona State, and upon no plea, but merely that of necessity that if such plea could avail him, there was an end to all engagements and treaties but that His Highness the Peshwa relied on your Lordship's impartiality and justice, which he was certain would find a remedy for a proceeding so arbitrary, and establish security against the recurrence of such irregularities in future. One point in Sindhia's letter, he added, it was impossible to pass without notice, which was, that in attacking Bhopal and Rautghur, he wishes to make it appear that he acted in behalf of the Poona Government, complaining that notwithstanding he proceeded on such grounds none of the Peshwa's Seranjamy Sirdars came forward to assist him during the eight months which he spent before Rautgarh. When Byajee Naik had finished his observations, I explained to him that as there was a British Resident at Sindhia's Durbar, questions arising at that Court would be naturally examined and determined in communication with him rather than with the Resident at Poona. That I should do myself the honour to transmit a copy of Sindhia's letter for your Lordship's perusal. That Mr. Mercer was, of course, in correspondence with your Lordship on the present subject, which would no doubt come under your Lordship's serious consideration.

2. Byajee Naik replied that the case was urgent, as the collections from the Seranjamy Mahals were going on. I again assured him that I should lose no time in addressing your Lordship on the subject, and here the meeting ended.

3. Byajee Naik had but just left me, when I received a visit from Anabah Jadoo, Sindhia's Vakeel. He had scarcely taken his seat, when he told me that he had received a letter from his master a copy of which he would read to me, if I had no objection. I made a motion to him to proceed, and when he began to read the letter I found it was a copy of the original one which Byajee Naik had just shown to me and of which a transcript as before said is enclosed.

4. When he had read the letter Anabah Jadoo entered into a detail of the wants experienced by Sindhia during his late enterprizes, and observed that although necessity and obliged him to issue drafts on the Seranjamy Mahals, his regard for the Poona State continued unabated. That he (Anaba) had exerted himself to reconcile the Peshwa and his Ministers to what had happened, but that they had referred him to me. Here he expressed his hopes that I would not deny the necessities of Sindhia a full consideration, or view the matter of the drafts in a more serious light than it

merited. In reply, I said that I could not withhold from him, that the proceeding he had adverted to, had excited dissatisfaction at the Peshwas's Durbar, that questions arising at Sindhia's Durbar were examined in communication with Mr. Mercer and not with the Resident at Poona, and that, whatever your Lordship might determine on the present subject would be communicated to Mr. Mercer, as residing with Sindhia. Anabah Jadoo seemed to think seriously of what I had stated, and, after some immaterial conversation hinted that he had ventured to suggest to his master that the drafts on the Seranjamy Mahals should be withdrawn. I allowed the subjects to terminate here, and shortly after he took his leave.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Poona:
The 16th January 1808.

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from Dowlat Rao Sindhia to Anabah Jadoo his Vakeel at Poona, dated 17th January 1808 (*agreeing with the beginning of December* 1807).

Dispatches from you have been received up to the end of Auswin Mas (September 1807), and replies to them have been regularly forwarded from hence. It was understood of late that Shrimant (the Peshwa) was about to proceed to pay his devotions to Chetumbur Dicksitt and Kartik Swamy, and he will, no doubt have departed accordingly. As no letter has been received from you, it is supposed that you have accompanied him. Such is the present appearance. If you have really proceeded with Shrimant you have only acted properly. The excursion will probably last a month or two and during the interval, you will not fail to transmit an account of what passes.

In respect to this quarter, it was found necessary in the course of last year to move our troops to the neighbourhood of Bhopal for the purpose of chastising the Pindaries, and accordingly these people were brought to punishment; and such of the Seranjamy lands belonging to the Sirkar (of Shreemant) as had been seized by them, were withdrawn from their control, and restored to the proper parties, in consequence whereof the several districts, freed from disturbance, again became populous. Thus the matter of the Pindaries was properly adjusted. The behaviour of the Pattan of Bhopal, however, and of his dependant also, the Pattan of Rautgarh, appeared to be very improper. They managed to make away with five or ten lacks of rupees, pursuing the conduct, only which they themselves preferred. It was seen also that Vazir Mohammed, the Minister of the Bhopal man infested the roads with robbers, and that neither his master nor the Pattan of Rautgarh, paid any respect to the law, which prohibits the killing of cattle; besides, it was evident that the depredations committed by these men could fall only on the districts of our Sirkar, or of that of Holkar or the Bhonsla, by which the Bhopal territory is surrounded; whereas this territory, from the strength of its confines, lay secure from all external annoyance. That a country so prosperous should be thus independently enjoyed during the government of Shreemant; that the law against the killing of cattle should be disrespected and that the roads should be constantly infested seemed to be highly wrong. From this impression, our troops were ordered to the Bhopal Sumistan while, with another body of the forces, I took up a position close to Rautghur. The Fort was now seen to be very strong situated on a mountain, and defended by a double wall of the best masonry with a deep ditch besides a river that washes the skirts of the hill, the approach to the place was rough and difficult, and upon the whole it appeared capable of great resistance. The Garrison was composed of Patans of tried bravery. But notwithstanding such means of opposition, the place was immediately invested on which batteries were erected which played on the works, and mines were also pushed forward with dispatch till at length the Patans of the Garrison distressed and subdued, offered terms of surrender. Seeing that they were reduced, I held it proper to spare their lives; and on the morning of Friday the 13th of Cartic (about the 10th November 1807) our troops ascended and took possession of the place. This enterprize occupied eight months, and during that interval we obtained no supplies; the expense of subsisting our cavalry, infantry and artillery men was very considerable, and to answer so large an expenditure the collections from our Mahals and districts were wholly inadequate; from Gwalior, owing to the disturbance excited by the Mowaussa, scarcely a rupee was derived and great distress began to be felt in every quarter of our camp. In this urgent state, it occurred that a few sums might be collected from the neighbouring districts belonging to the Serinjamy servants of the Sirkar (of Shrimant) in order to enable us to march. This was accordingly resorted to, and I issued Drafts on the Mahals of the Vinchoor man of Rajah Bahadur of the *Nagaum* man, and of the Peshwas on this account, representations from these parties will probably be made to Sreemant. Last year collections were made from these Mahals, on which occasion you received instructions from hence, and corresponded in reply. The fact is that the Pindaries had been expelled from the said Mahals, by which they prospered and therefore the Serinjamy parties were so far reconciled, as not to have taken the matter much to heart. But this year, that we have renewed the collections, they will, no doubt, be loud in their complaints. To possess myself of Rautghar, I found to be indispensable, and from this cause only, I was led to demand the revenue.

You must explain these particulars to Shrimant, and his Ministers, and manage so as that no complaints shall be made by the above Serinjamy servants. Should any of them have preferred complaints, before you had the means of making the explanations directed, and the Sirkar, in consequence, call on you on the subject, you must be careful, in replying, not to omit any of the particulars before enumerated, but to state them in such a manner as that the good will of the Sirkar shall continue towards me. Indeed, originally, it did not seem well to me to collect sums from the Serinjamy Mahals, but when I adverted to the state of things respecting the Serinjamy servants, namely Rajah Bahadur Nagaudkar, the Powar, and Codakur, it could not escape my notice, that none of these dependants performed any service to the (Poona) Sirkar and that, even should they be properly disposed in future, they had scarcely resources to allow of their acquitting themselves of any service; and that exclusive of this, they experienced no demand of service from the Poona Sirkar; and it is to be observed that during the eight months, not one of them came forward with even four or five people to assist in the business of the (Poona) Sirkar: Thus it is obvious that the part I took was unavoidable, from the pressure I sustained, from want of funds to answer my expenses.

The above is written to you with the view that you may be fully acquainted with circumstances, and represent the whole to the Sirkar.

A true translation.

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship, that His Highness the Peshwa has consented that the Serinjaumy and Muttesed-die villages, etc., claimed by Jeswant Rao Holkar, shall be restored to His Government, on the ground that they were assumed by the Poona state, at the same period with the places which were returned to Holkar, agreeably to the Treaty of peace. Khandu Pant is now in communication with Sadashiv Mankeshwar on the subject, which I trust will soon be adjusted.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Poona :
The 17th January 1808.

Letter No. 10.—This is an enclosure to Colonel Close's letter to Jenkins. Close reports the dispute in the Patwardhan family owing to the grabbing nature of Chintaman Rao Patwardhan. He also reports that a dispute was going on between Sawantwari under the rule of Laxmi Bai helped by Appa Desai and Kolhapur.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, dated the 18th November 1808.

I had formerly the honour to address your Lordship respecting the conduct observed by Chintaman Rao Patwardhan, in having renounced an agreement which had taken place between the members of his family, and to which he with the rest had affixed his signature. Appa Sahib Patwardhan finding that no useful impression could be made on his kinsman, who persisted in his right to seize the districts of Ballaji Gangadhar, and even menaced to beseize his fort of Meraj, solicited His Highness the Peshwa to confirm the family agreement by granting Sunnuds to the different members of the family, for the districts held by each under the agreement. Chintaman sent a Vakil to Poona to frustrate this application but without effect. The Peshwa granted the Sunnuds, as requested and it is now believed that if Chintaman Rao does not desist from his arbitrary proceedings, and restore the districts which he has taken from Balaji Gangadhar, Appa Sahib, with the other branches of the house, will unite against him and use coercive measures to enforce the restitution.

In the Sawant Warree country, Laxmi Bai seems to have acquired a complete ascendancy over the opposite party in the Government, and to conduct the public administration with the concurrence and support of Appa Desai. This Sardar is still engaged in a desultory warfare with the Rajah of Kolhapur. The troops of each side have never approached each other in force, so that their efforts are limited to occasional skirmishes and stratagems, to surprise our parties. This trifling, however, is expensive to both sides, and from this circumstance, it may be expected, that a termination of these hostilities is not far off.

Letter No. 11.—This letter from Col. Close to R. Jenkins has two enclosures written by Colonel Doveton to Colonel Wallace, in which the former gives an account of his attack on the Camp of Mahipat Rao Holkar, Bungash and Dadun Khan who had plundered the Peshwa's northern frontier in Khandesh.

To—COLONEL WILLIAM WALLACE,

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that according to my former communication to you, I marched from Ferdapore on the morning of the 26th instant with a detachment composed of the horse artillery, the 4th and 8th Regiments of native cavalry, and twelve companies of Native Infantry, and reached Nusrabad on the morning of the 27th.

Finding from authentic information that the confederated Chieftains were still encamped at Amalner, after halting for two hours to refresh the troops, I pushed on to Pipli, and having stopped there for a short time to refresh the people as well as to allow the horse artillery and native cavalry to feed I continued my march and at 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon had the pleasure of surprising the allied Chiefs in their Camp at Amalnair.

The whole of their Guns might, I believe in number and equipment, have been captured and a very considerable number of their horse and foot completely destroyed; unfortunately however the confederated Chiefs themselves, Mahipat Rao Holkar, Bungush and Dadun Khan contrived to effect their escape, although there is a strong report that the latter is killed. I shall however have the pleasure of writing you more fully on this subject in the course of tomorrow. Our loss in the cavalry has been trifling, not more I believe than three men, but the infantry have suffered more from the cannonade of one of their Battalions, which drew up against them on their march, and from what I have at present learnt is not less than twenty men killed and wounded.

As the detachment is considerably fatigued, and the whole of its baggage with Major Stewart, I shall halt here until I hear further from you.

The enemy having dispersed and fled in all directions it is impossible for me at present to say what has become of Mahipat Rao Holkar; and his associates Yusuf Ali Khan, Bangesh's brother, and another interprizing officer of rank, Serjaut Khan, are wounded and our prisoners.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp at Amalner: J. DOVETON, LT.-COL.,
The 29th December 1808. Commanding a Detachment.

N.B.—I have just learnt that Bungush, Dadun Khan and Mahipat Rao Holkar were unfortunately in the Batteries which they had directed against Amalner at the moment of our attack and to which is to be imputed their escape.

J. DOVETON, Lt.-Col.

To—COLONEL WALLACE.

SIR,

Since writing to you my letter of yesterday, I have been honoured with your dispatch in duplicate of the 25th instant containing two papers of intelligence regarding the Pindaries, but your original letter has however reached me nor either of the copies of the letters from Colonel Close, which you allude to in your dispach. Late yesterday your Hircarrahs arrived in my Camp, and one of them mentions his having met Dadun Khan in his flight to Chandore at the village of Borecoondee about 16 coss from this and I have every reason to suppose that Bungush and Pelwan Khan have fled in the direction of Shenkhair. I have not been able to procure the slightest account of Mahipat Rao Holkar, and from many concurring circumstances, have reason to suppose that he was the Chieftain reported to be killed, and not Dadun Khan, as a person seemingly from his appearance of considerable consequence lay burnt to death near Mahipat-Rao Holkar's tent, and I have positively ascertained, that he was the only one Chief in the Camp at the moment of the attack, the others being in the Batteries which were out of the range of the Cavalry attack, and the Infantry did not arrive until about an hour after.

I have much pleasure in informing you that we have taken 14 pieces of ordance instead of 8 as I mentioned to you in my dispatch of yesterday. Your Hircarrah also reports that Dadun Khan was accompanied only by 13 horsemen and we have captured many more horses than I had at first reason to suppose.

I shall halt here until I receive further instructions from you and should be glad to be informed how you would wish Bungush's brother and Serjayet Khan should be disposed of.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

Camp at Ahmednagar: J. DOVETON, LT.-COL.,

The 30th December 1808. Commanding a Detachment.

Letter No. 12.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Close's address to the Governor-General, dated the 27th May 1809. In his address Close reports the strained relations between the Peshwa and his brother Chimnajee Appa.

Poona, the 11th June 1809.

FROM—B. CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

I have the honour to transmit for your information copies of my addresses Nos. 45 and 46 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

On the 25th instant, Byajee Naik paid me a visit, accompanied by Ramchandra Pant, a Brahmin in the service of His Highness Chimnajee Appah, and much in his confidence. After they had taken their seats, Byajee Naik informed me that His Highness Chimnajee Appah had, agreeably to the intimation which he had formerly given, desired him and Ramchandra Pant to make me acquainted with the terms on which he conceived a proper intercourse might be re-established between him and his brother the Peshwa.

2. Ramchandra Pant then read a paper of memoranda from His Highness Chimnajee, which went to state that no specific arrangement was requisite between the two brothers, and that the Peshwa ought to observe an affectionate mode of behaviour towards him, Chimnajee Appa, his younger brother, consistent with the habits formerly used by the members of the family when one was on the Musnud and the others took their seats near it, and were regarded and supported in a manner suitable to their degrees of consanguinity with the prince, and their dignity in the State. That at those times each member received from the public treasury supplies equal to his wants without any fixed limitation and was paid the attentions and honours suggested by due consideration of his relative rank. That His Highness Chimnajee Appa wished this state of things to be revived in the family in regard to himself. That the wish was but just and reasonable and that accordingly he trusted it would be complied with the memoranda, then went to specify some matters required particularly by His Highness Chimnajee Appa for his convenience. The portion of the ancient family dwelling which he occupied was not sufficiently spacious for his accommodation. Such and such apartment, and lumber rooms were to be added to it. Pasture grounds were to be granted for the subsistence of his horses and cattle. Villages were to be granted for the supply of forage and grain, and stable and store houses were to be furnished in Poona for the accommodation of his usual equipment, and when he went abroad, he was to receive from the revenue officers of the Government such articles of supply as were usually furnished as tokens of respect.

3. Having heard the whole of the memoranda, I observed to Ramchandra Pant that as points of difference formerly subsisted between the Peshwa and his brother, a specific agreement had been adjusted between them, as the only apparent means of removing grounds of variance; that the memoranda he had just persued went to do away that agreement and recommend an indefinite system of conduct between the two brothers, no doubt, highly becoming, but under existing circumstances, not apparently practicable. That experience had shown that the Peshwa's desire was decidedly for a specific arrangement with his brother, and that

when the minds of both inclined respectively to opposite directions, there could not be much hope of bringing them to any ground of concord. That His Highness Chimnajee Appa complained of a want of accommodation in the dwelling which he occupied. That His Highness the Peshwa, too, used the same dwelling, which seemed to account for the inconvenience felt by His Highness Chimnajee who having a very respectable suite required very extensive accommodation. That on an occasion when a dispute took place in the city between some of his attendants and a party of the police peons, which afterwards led to another between the latter and the men of the Guard stationed at the gate leading to His Highness Chimnajee's apartments, and I had noticed the circumstance to His Highness the Peshwa, as of an unpleasant kind, His Highness observed in reply that his brother's situation in the ancient family dwelling was by no means commodious. That a portion of the dwelling sufficient for his purpose could not be spared. That the place occupied by the guard which furnished sentries over His Highness Chimnajee's apartments was required for another purpose. That he had accordingly prepared a suitable edifice in the city for his brother, which would be soon prepared in every respect for his reception, and that, if his brother should be induced to prefer that edifice to his present situation, his accommodation would be ample, while his vacating the family dwelling would add much to his (the Peshwa's) convenience.

4. Here I requested Ramchandra Pant to notice that His Highness had apparently two objects in view regarding his brother. First that he should again enter into the marriage state during the present season, and second, that he should occupy the new edifice prepared for his reception and then stated that if His Highness Chimnajee could be brought to gratify his brother by complying with his wishes in these two respects, I should be enabled to make overtures to His Highness the Peshwa for the purpose of inducing him to indulge his brother to some of the definite objects detailed in the memoranda before mentioned. Byajee Naik approved much of this plan. He said that His Highness Chimnajee Appa could not be prevailed on to accede to the above two points, both which tended directly to his convenience there could be little prospect of bringing His Highness the Peshwa to acquiesce in any of his brother's propositions, whereas, should His Highness Chimnajee meet the Peshwa's wishes in the two points alluded to, the consequences would probably be so happy as to lead to an entire reconciliation.

5. Ramchandra Pant did not show himself satisfied with these statements or reasonings. He said that His Highness Chimnajee had explained in the memoranda, what he conceived is right, should have effect. That he would agree to return to the matrimonial state on no other terms, but acquiescence by His Highness the Peshwa in the propositions contained in the paper of memoranda and that he would not consent to remove from his

present situation in the family dwelling. Byajee Naik interposed by expressing his hopes that His Highness Chimnajee would be prevailed on to accede to the two points desired by the Peshwa, and said that he would himself sound His Highness on the subject when he should next have the honour to wait on him. A further conversation took place but without effect; Ramchandra Pant adhered to his first statement and the meeting broke up.

6. Yesterday, I received another visit from Byajee Naik who told me that he had waited on His Highness Chimnajee Appa agreeably to the intention which he had formerly explained, but found unhappily that no argument could induce him to acquiesce with the Peshwa's wishes, relative to the two points before noticed, or relax in any degree from the requisitions stated in the memoranda. He had pleasure, he said, in acquainting me, however, that His Highness the Peshwa had on the evening of the 26th instant paid a visit to his brother on the occasion of his late misfortune, but that such was the reserve of both that scarcely a word passed between them; such, then, is the footing which holds between the two brothers at present, my endeavours to improve it may fail of success, but be useful in some degree in preventing it from growing worse.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Poona:
The 27th May 1809.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord.

On the 28th ultimo, I received a message from His Highness the Peshwa intimating that he should be happy to see me in the course of the evening. I accordingly waited on His Highness accompanied by Mr. Gowan, and found that he wished to have a conversation with me consequent of the communication which I had received from His Highness Chimnajee through Byajee Naik and Ramchandra Punt. The Peshwa commented on the demands submitted by his brother, who, he said, was by his own propositions to be satisfied only by an absolute indulgence of his will, whether in regard to honours or property. Such a plan he added it was not possible to realize or comply with but that, as his solicitude for his brother's marriage during the present season continued unabated, he was willing to go great lengths to carry this object. Here His Highness gave me assurance that if his brother would consent to marry within the time prescribed, he (the Peshwa) would himself attend to the nuptials and sparing no expense, take care that this should be celebrated in a manner which should be entirely satisfactory to his brother and all his friends. As the Peshwa had never explained himself so fully on this point before I told him that I should take measures for having his offer communicated to His Highness Chimnajee who might possibly be induced to meet a proposition so liberal.

2. Here I took my leave of His Highness, and requested of Byajee Naik to let it be known to His Highness Chimnajee that I should be happy to receive a visit from his confidential servant Ramchandra Pant at any time he should appoint as convenient.

3. Byajee Naik complied with this wish, and on the morning of the 31st ultimo I received a visit from him and Ramchandra Pant. The subject in view was now entered upon. I pointed out the nature of the Peshwa's offer to his brother, remarked that it was larger than any His Highness had ever made before, and so liberal, that in presenting it, His Highness evidently made the first approach towards his brother for bringing about an improved footing between them. That the Peshwa's proposition having struck me in this light, I judged it proper that it should be made known to His Highness Chimnajee, who, if induced on his side to make a similar approach towards his brother by assenting to it, the consequences would be equally favourable to the interests of the family and satisfactory to your Lordship. Ramchandra Pant gave me no hopes that His Highness Chimnajee would be thus moved. He stated that acquiescence in one of his Highness's propositions would be nothing to him without acquiescence in the whole, and that he would not relax in any respect from the demands he had submitted. I then observed that it would be satisfactory to me to have the Peshwa's last offer communicated to His Highness Chimnajee, as I could not bring myself to despair of his assent, and that should he, from any consideration, be brought to meet the offer, I should have particular gratification in reporting on the subject to your Lordship. Ramchandra Pant said, he would make the communication I desired and here the meeting broke up.

4. On the 3rd instant, both parties visited me again, and let me know that when the Peshwa's offer was communicated to His Highness Chimnajee he revolved it a considerable time in his mind, and at length said, as his fixed determination, that acquiesced in, he could not possibly give his assent. He has accordingly expressed his intention to visit Wahi at the source of the Kistna to perform some religious ceremony which become requisite in consequence of his late misfortune. If His Highness the Peshwa make any further propositions with a view to conciliate his mind, I shall have the honour of making them known to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
B. CLOSE,
Resident at Poona.

Poona:
The 5th June 1809.

Letter No. 13.—Henery Russell becomes the Acting Resident at Poona vice Colonel B. Close.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 18th November 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 1, to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT ST. GEORGE.

MY LORD.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship through the Secretary to the Governor-General, that I had arrived at Poona, and had announced to His Highness the Peshwa my having assumed the charge of the Residency at his Court.

Letter No. 14.—The enclosure to this letter is very important. In the enclosure which is a copy of his letter to the Governor-General, Russell reports his conversation with the Peshwa regarding the intention of Jeshwant Rao Holkar to visit the temple of Jejuri. The Peshwa expressed his strong disapprobation about letting Holkar to approach his frontiers. Russell also reports his interview with the Minister who intimated to him that a secret letter had been dispatched by Holkar to Chimnaji, Peshwa's brother, and that the letter had been intercepted. Russell also reports his meeting with Khandu Pant, Holkar's Vakil, to ascertain facts about Holkar's real intention.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 29th November 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 2, dated the 24th instant to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General and a copy of my dispatch of the 19th instant to Mr. Edmonstone.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT ST. GEORGE.

My Lord,

1. * * * *

2. * * * *

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5. * * * *

6. I began the conversation by reminding the Peshwa of the intention which had already been expressed by Jeswant Rao Holkar of visiting the temple of Khande Rao at Jajoory, and I then communicated to His Highness the paper of intelligence from Holkar's Camp, of which a translation was inclosed in my dispatch of the 19th instant to the Secretary to the Governor-General, and also another paper of intelligence from the same quarter, of which I have now the honour to submit a translation for your Lordship's notice.

7. The Peshwa and his Minister both said that a report had for some time past been prevalent of Holkar's having renewed his intention of coming to Jejoory but that the two papers of intelligence I had communicated to them contained the only distinct account they had received upon the subject. The Peshwa said that he could not contemplate the probability of Holkar's entering his territories without great apprehension and uneasiness, especially if he was to be accompanied by any number of troops larger than was absolutely necessary to compose the ordinary retinue about his person ; that such was the malignity of Holkar's disposition, and such the natural depravity of his character and conduct, that whatever might be the fairness of Holkar's professions, or whatever the apparent innocence of his measures, it would always be reasonable to suspect, that they were ultimately to the accomplishment of an evil purpose and that, combining this recent indication of Holkar's intention to come towards Jejoory, with the late movement of Meer Khan's force on the frontier of the Nagpur territory, His Highness was more strongly convinced than ever that Holkar's avowed intention of visiting the temple of his tutelary deity was merely a pretext, under the cover of which were meditated designs of the most dangerous and extensive nature.

8. I told the Peshwa that I agreed entirely with him in thinking that it would be proper to oppose Holkar's intention of coming to Jejoory, and reminded the Minister that he had been already told by Colonel Close that Holkar could not be allowed to visit Jejoory, without the permission of the Peshwa, and of the Governments in alliance with him; and as the purport of Colonel Closes's dispatch No. 38, dated the 19th of February 1809 on this subject had been honoured with your Lordship's express approval,

I took care, during conversation of some length which continued between the Peshwa, the Minister and me, to regulate my conversation by the spirit and tenor of that dispatch.

9. It is not necessary that I should detail to your Lordship the particulars of a conversation, which, on the part of the Peshwa and the Minister, consisted entirely of expressions of distrust and apprehension of the real designs of Holkar's Durbar, and of strong declarations of the Peshwa's unwillingness to allow Holkar to come within the frontier of his dominions. It will be sufficient for me to state that, on the result of our conversation, it was agreed that in the event of Holkar or his Ministers addressing to the Peshwa and the British Government, the letters alluded to in the second paper of intelligence from his Camp, such answers should be written to them as might appear to your Lordship to be proper; and that in the meantime the Minister and I should each of us send for Holkar's Vakeel, Cundoo Pant, and desire him to convey to his master an intimation that it was not customary for the Princes and Chieftains of this country to enter the territories of each other, without having previously obtained express permission for the purpose, and that Holkar could not therefore, on any account, be allowed to come within the frontier of these territories without the consent both of His Highness the Peshwa himself and of the powers in alliance with him.

10. The Peshwa then communicated to me the draft of a reply to Meer Khan's late letter to him, which he had prepared according to the substance of a translation I had given him of the memorandum that had been sent to me for that purpose by Colonel Close, and as the draft appeared to me to be sufficiently in the spirit of Colonel Close's memorandum, I requested that the letter might be written and dispatched to Meer Khan with as little delay as possible. Of that draft, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship a copy and translation.

11. On this occasion a long conversation also took place between the Peshwa, the Minister and me regarding the present state of affairs in Savenoor, on which subject I shall have the honour of addressing a separate dispatch to your Lordship, in the course of a few days.

12. At a late hour of the evening, I took leave of the Peshwa and returned to the Residency.

13. This morning I called by appointment at the Minister's to return the complimentary visit which he paid me on my first arrival at Poona.

14. Immediately after we were seated, the Minister desired all the attendants to withdraw, and then proceeded to inform me that yesterday evening, soon after dark, a stranger of a suspicious appearance had been detected in an attempt to gain admittance into the inner part of the house occupied by His Highness the

Peshwa and his brotner Chimnajee Appah, and that, on being seized and conducted to the Minister, he had acknowledged that he was a servant of Jeswant Rao Holkar, and had brought a private letter from Holkar to Chimnajee Appah. This letter had been found upon him and the Minister gave it to me unopened. At my desire it was immediately opened in our presence, and the tenor of it appeared, on perusal, to be of a tendency to confirm both the purport of the intelligence lately received by me from Holkar's Camp and the uneasiness expressed by the Peshwa at Holkar's meditated advance towards Jejoory. Of this letter I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation for your Lordship's notice.

15. Immediately I requested that the Minister would send for the person on whom the letter had been found, and endeavour to ascertain from him the circumstances under which he had come to Poona. The Minister did so and by the result of the enquiries that were made from him, it appears that his name is Jagannath Trimbak and that he is a Karkoon in the service of Baboo Bhai who commands a party of Holkar's pagah horse stationed at Chandore, that he was sent some time ago by Holkar to Tookoo Bhau and by Sookoo Bhau to Holkar's Vakeel at Poona, to endeavour to recover some of Holkar's horses which were taken last year from the troops under the command of Mahipat Rao Holkar; that while he was at Chandore, a person named Byajee Venkatesh, arrived there from Holkar's Camp, with a letter from Holkar for Chimnajee Appah; that when he continued his journey towards Poona he left Byajee Venkatesh at Chandore, and that, Byajee Venkatesh, instead of coming on himself to Poona, had afterwards forwarded the letter for Chimnajee Appah by a pair of hiracarrahs, who had arrived at Poona about a week ago and had given it to that while he was at Chandore, a person named Byajee Neneataish to deliver it secretly to Chimnajee Appah.

16. The letter is not written in the same hand as any of the letters that have hitherto been received here from Holkar, and it bears neither Holkar's seal, nor the signature which it is customary for him to affix to all letters avowedly written by him; but the Minister said that he did not see any reason to entertain a doubt of its genuineness and authenticity. If the letter did really proceed from Holkar, or from either of the parties at his Durbar, they may naturally be suspected to have had it written in a strange hand and to have omitted both the seal and signature, with the view of being able, with some colour of plausibility, to deny the letter in the event of its being detected, and it is difficult to imagine, with what object or design, such a letter can have been fabricated and uttered by any other person.

17. I told the Minister that I should immediately report to your Lordship the purport of the conversation I had had with him and the Peshwa and transmit to you both the letter addressed to

Chimnajee Appah and the papers of intelligence that I had received from Holkar's Camp. I desired that he would communicate to the Peshwa the letter he had intercepted, and request that he would cautiously conceal from the knowledge of Chimnajee Appah every circumstance connected with the letter, and that, for the present, he would have Jagannath Trimbak carefully kept under restraint in such a situation as to prevent his holding communication with anybody except the Minister himself and the persons who are in his confidence. This the Minister assured me should be done.

18. When I took leave of the Minister, he presented me with a Jeegah, a surpaich and two trays of cloths, which have been lodged in the public store of this Residency.

19. I immediately on my return from the Minister's sent for Holkar's Vakeel Khandu Pant and asked him in the first instance whether he had lately received any letters from his master's camp. He said that the last letters he had received had arrived here about a fortnight ago and that they did not contain any particular intelligence, that they merely stated that Holkar had lately moved his camp in different directions within the district of Dhar and that the state of his health was considerably better than it had been for some time past.

20. I then told Khandu Pant that it was stated in some papers of intelligence which I had lately seen that Holkar had renewed his intention of visiting Jejoory and that although I could not conceive that after the distinct intimation which had some months ago been conveyed to him on this subject by Colonel Close, Holkar could entertain any serious intention of moving in this direction, it was absolutely necessary that I should remind him of the communication which had already passed between him and Colonel Close regarding Holkar's visit to Jejoory. I distinctly repeated to Khandu Pant the communication which had been agreed on between the Peshwa, the Minister and me, and desired that he would immediately write to his master to inform him that he could not on any account be allowed to enter these territories without having previously obtained the express permission of the Peshwa and his allies, but that if he really was desirous to offer his devotions at the Temple of Khande Rao he might address letters on the subject to the Peshwa and me, and that we would send him such answers as might appear to us to be necessary and proper.

21. Khandu Pant said that he had not yet received any intimation of Holkar's having renewed his intention of visiting Jejoory. that if he really had done so it would no doubt be communicated to him in a few days, but that in the meantime he should immediately dispatch a letter to his master communicating to him the intimation he had just received from me.

22. I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's notice a translation of a further paper of intelligence from Holkar's camp which I have received since my return from the Minister's house.

23. A copy of this dispatch as well as of every other official dispatch that may be addressed by me either to your Lordship or to the Secretary to the Governor-General will be immediately transmitted to Colonel Close, and I request your Lordship to be assured that I shall pay the most implicit attention to any instructions which may be communicated to me by Colonel Close before I have the honour to receive your Lordship's commands.

24. On the subject of the unfortunate affray which occurred here on the 29th ultimo the dispatches of Captain Hamilton to Colonel Close of which copies have been submitted to your Lordship appear to contain all the information that can be necessary for the guidance of your Lordship's judgment on the question. The result of every enquiry that I have made has confirmed the accuracy of the statement comprised in Captain Hamilton's dispatches.

25. Of the persons who were originally seized and confined by the Peshwa on this account, none have been lodged in the public gaol of whom three are in irons and the remainder amounting to near fifty are under restraint at their respective houses. Of those that are in the public gaol, the three who are in irons are the persons who acknowledge having beaten, wounded and fired at the officers and the other six are among the number of those who tied them and conducted them under circumstances of so much cruelty and indignity through the streets of the town to the Peshwa's palace. The other persons on whom restraint has been imposed are those who were on duty, at the garden, where the affray happened and who are of course therefore suspected of having contributed to the violence that was committed.

26. From the account given by the officers themselves and from the information that I have myself obtained upon the subject, it is prudent that many more persons than those who have been discovered must have been actively concerned both in the assault that was first made upon the officers and in the indignities by which it was followed, but as the Peshwa showed in the first instance so much alacrity in his disposition to seize and punish the offenders and as the persons who have been already detected and confined appear to be quite sufficiently numerous as the objects of any punishment that your Lordship may think it necessary should be inflicted on them, I have been reluctant to renew the discussion of so unpleasant a subject and to keep up the irritation of the public mind by prosecuting an inquiry for the discovery of a larger number of the offenders. The discoveries that have already been made seem to be sufficient, but if more are thought necessary more can undoubtedly be made.

27. On this subject I have the honour to submit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I thought it proper to address to the officer commanding the two battalions stationed immediately in the vicinity of Poona.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona: HENRY RUSSELL,
The 24th November 1809. Acting Resident.

P. S.—Since writing this dispatch, I have received a paper of intelligence from Holkar's camp, in which it is stated, that Surripat Ram, the nephew of the late Raja Mahipat Ram, had been murdered on the 11th instant, by a soldier in his own service, in consequence of a dispute about pay.

Letter No. 15.—Russell reports that the rebel of Savanoor Abdulla Khan had been captured with his family and that the fort also had been taken. The tour of Peshwa is also referred to.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Poona, the 27th January 1810.

1. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Peshwa left Poona about a fortnight ago, with the intention of proceeding by Waee, Satara, Raigarh, and Mhar, to a temple dedicated to Ganpati at a village called Pola, in the district of Ratnagiri, on the sea shore, near the place at which His Highness embarked for Choul, in the end of 1802, in order to perform a vow which he then made that, in the event of his being restored to his Government and authority, he would return there to offer up his thanks to the deity that presided over the temple.

2. At Waee, His Highness remained some days to perform the usual religious ceremonies on the occasion of the death of Vinaik Rao Raustia, the father of the eldest of His Highness's two wives. His Highness has by this time, I apprehend, arrived at Pola; but as he does not travel very rapidly and remains some days at each of the places where he stops it is probable that he will not return to Poona before the 10th or 15th of next month.

3. His Highness left Raghoo Malhar, the Minister's Dewan, at Poona to conduct the necessary details of business with me, and he assured me that, in the event of anything occurring of sufficient importance to require his presence, he would himself return to Poona without delay.

4. Sadashiv Mankeshwar is at present at Sholapore, a place in his Jagheer, about seventy miles to the eastward of Poona. From Teymurni he went to Tuljapore, the frontier town between the Nizam's and the Peshwa's territories, to perform his devotions at a celebrated temple there, dedicated to Bhawani. From Sholapore he will go again to Tuymournee and will return from thence direct to Poona. He is expected to arrive here about the 10th of February.

5. I have great satisfaction in informing your Lordship that the persons of the rebel Abdulla Khan and of the females of his family, have been secured by Madhoo Rao Dajee.

6. Immediately on receiving the Peshwa's order, Appa Desai moved with a force, which is described as a very respectable one, towards Savenoor and arrived there about three weeks ago. Chintaman Rao took not the least notice of the order that had been addressed to him. He neither made any arrangements for going himself towards Savenoor, nor did he send any of his troops to join the force under his relation Madho Rao Dajee.

7. On the approach of Appa Desai towards Savenoor, Abdulla Khan retired with his family, and about a thousand men, from the fort of Savenoor to a fortified place called Poultumbee, at the distance of about ten miles from Savenoor, of which, he had originally been an inhabitant, and in which he had been employed in the capacity of a Koolkarni, under the Patil of the place. Two of his brothers with the rest of his force, remained in Savenoor, and all the places of which the rebels had taken possession, except Poultumbee and the fort of Savenoor itself were evacuated.

8. Madhoo Rao Dajee and Balum Bhat Watwar, with the whole of the troops under their command, followed Abdulla Khan to Poultumbee and Appa Desai moved with his force directly against Savenoor.

9. Soon after Appa Desai's arrival before Savenoor, two successive attacks were made upon his force by the rebels under Abdulla Khan's two brothers, but they were defeated and driven back into the fort on both occasions. A proposal was then made by the two brothers to Appa Desai that they would surrender the fort to him upon condition of their being allowed to retire in safety but Appa Desai refused to listen to any other terms than those of an unconditional surrender both of the fort and of the persons of all the rebel troops that were in it, and he has since continued to prosecute the necessary operations for effecting the reduction of the place. In the course of a few days I hope to hear either that the persons of the two brothers have been surrendered by themselves or their troops into the hands of Appa Desai, or that he has assembled and taken the fort.

10. Abdulla Khan, after shutting himself in Poultumbee, soon found that he was not strong enough to cope with the force under Appa Desai, in addition to that which had been previously acting

against him under Madhoo Rao Dajee and Balum Bhut Watwa, and he therefore proposed to evacuate Poultumbee and to require his brothers to deliver up Savenoor, upon condition of their being allowed to retire with their families across the Toombuddra, into the Company's territory. Madhoo Rao Dajee said that he had no authority to grant any terms to Abdulla Khan or his brothers, and that therefore, unless he surrendered his person to him unconditionally, he should immediately proceed to attack the place. With this requisition Abdulla Khan declined to comply, and it was not until Madhoo Rao Dajee had actually breached the wall and taken measures for making the assault that Abdulla Khan is stated to have surrendered himself and his family, and to have requested of Madhoo Rao Dajee that his life at least might be spared. Madhoo Rao Dajee is described to have replied that he had no authority to assure Abdulla Khan that even his life would be spared, but that he should send him to his elder brother Appa Sahib Patwardhan, under whose orders he was acting, and that his fate would, of course, ultimately depend on the decision of the Peshwa. At the date of last accounts I have received from Savenoor, Abdulla Khan was still in confinement in the camp of Madhoo Rao Dajee, but his family had been sent to Murleyhully, a fort in the district of Sheogaon.

11. Immediately on receiving information of Abdulla Khan's person having been secured, I desired Raghoo Malhar to transmit my congratulations to the Peshwa on the occasion, and to express my anxious hope that His Highness would see the necessity of adopting such measures towards Abdulla Khan himself, and the persons who had been principally concerned with him in his rebellion, as might be expected to operate as an efficacious example to deter other persons from the commission of similar crimes in future. In all the communications I had with the Peshwa on the subject, he declared his resolution to put Abdulla Khan to death, immediately he obtained possession of his person, and I understood, at the time, that an order to that effect had been transmitted by His Highness to Madhoo Rao Dajee but from the circumstance of Madhoo Rao Dajee's having resolved to transmit the person of Abdulla Khan to his brother, instead of executing him immediately as he ought to have done, I am not without apprehension either that he may be disposed to save his life or that he may even have made some secret condition of that kind with Abdulla Khan before he surrendered his person into his hands. Madhoo Rao Dajee was always jealous of any other person being sent to assist in the reduction of Savenoor, and as he had been so long and so often foiled by Abdulla Khan, he may have been anxious to get possession of his person upon any terms before the actual junction of Appa Desai should have occurred to deprive him of a principal share in the credit of success.

12. By the time the Peshwa returns to Poona, I hope that the fort of Savenoor will have been reduced under his authority; and that the rebellion which had prevailed there for so many months

past will for the present, at least, have been suppressed. But it must be an object of great importance to prevent, as far as possible, the repetition of similar acts of violence and outrage for the future and I trust, therefore, that your Lordship will be pleased to approve of my intention to exert my influence and advice, to prevail on His Highness to place the important province of Savenoor under the most vigorous and efficient system of management and control that it may be in the power of his Government to provide.

13. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Lieutenant Col. Montresor, with the force under his command, arrived at Jalna on the 19th instant and that the 5th Regiment of cavalry was expected to join him three days afterwards. His Highness the Peshwa has at my request issued orders to the Vinchoor Jagirdar, the Rajah of Akalkot, and Madhoo Rao Raustia, to send a portion of their respective forces to join Lieutenant Colonel Montresor, and I beg your Lordship to be assured that I shall use every effort in my power to expedite their junction as much as may be practicable.

Letter No. 16.—The letter is very interesting and gives a description of the Court-etiquette that is observed by the Peshwa in regard to the Rajah of Satara.

From—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 30th June 1810.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship the Peshwa's return to Poona from the visit he paid to the Rajah of Satara, upon the occasion of the marriage of the Rajah's brother. The Rajah invited the Peshwa to be present at the ceremony; but he deferred going until after it had been concluded, in order that he might avoid the great expense of the presents it would have been necessary for him to make, if he had attended personally at the marriage. The Peshwa remained fifteen days at Satara.

2. Upon this occasion it may not, perhaps, be altogether uninteresting to describe the leading forms that regulate the personal intercourse between the Rajah of Satara and the Peshwa in the curious and almost unprecedented relation in which they stand towards each other. The ceremonies with which the Rajah was received and treated when he visited Poona upon the occasion of the marriage of the late Peshwa Madhoo Rao, are described by Sir Charles Malet in his address to Lord Cornwallis, dated the

15th of March 1787. But the Poona administration was then exclusively in the hands of Nana Furnaveese, whose pride and arrogance would not submit to treat any person with marks of greater superiority than he could possibly avoid; and he, therefore, regulated both the Peshwa's intercourse with the Rajah and his own upon a principle approaching much more nearly to equality than a strict attention to either precedent or propriety would have warranted.

3. But this encroachment upon established custom existed only during the time of Nana Farnavees. The Peshwa now observes the same forms of external respect towards the Rajah that were observed when the Rajah was efficient Sovereign of the State, and the Peshwa only his Minister. The change that has taken place in the relative power and consequence of the Rajah and the Peshwa, has produced none in their personal behavior towards each other. The Rajah maintains in this ceremonial of this court all the state of a real sovereign, and the Peshwa approaches and treats him with the same marks of respect that are paid by the most dutiful subject to the person of the despotic prince.

4. When the Peshwa goes to Satara, his tents are usually pitched at Mahowly a place of some sanctity upon the confluence of the Kistna and Nenga rivers, about three miles from the fort of Satara. The present Peshwa generally sleeps at a house which he has in the town of Satara, and passed only a few hours of the day at his tents. The Rajah has two palaces at Satara, one within the fort, and the other in the town at the foot of the hill. The former is his permanent residence. When the Peshwa visits Satara, the Rajah and his family are brought from the palace within the fort to that in the town, upon the Peshwa's arrival in the neighbourhood, and they remain there during the Peshwa's stay, but after the Peshwa has gone through the form of taking leave of the Rajah he does not finally move from Mahowly, or any other place in the neighbourhood at which his tents may have been pitched, until he has received a report of the Rajah and his family having been removed from the palace in the town and again in that within the fort. Trimbakjee Dinglia, one of the Peshwa's immediate personal attendants, is the nominal Killedar of Satara, and care is always taken to select for the actual charge of the fort, such persons as can be safely relied upon, the troops stationed there as a garrison, belonging immediately to the Peshwa.

5. When the Peshwa approaches Satara, the Rajah sends some person to the distance of two or three miles to meet him. This person conducts him to the Rajah's palace in the town. Upon his arrival at the gate of the palace, he is met by some of the Rajah's Hoojrah's who go through the form of tying his hands slightly together with a handkerchief, in the posture of respect, and introduce him in that way into the Rajah's presence. As he enters the apartment in which the Rajah's Pratinidhi or some person

who is supposed to represent him, receives the Peshwa, and takes him up to the Rajah, who, on such occasions, is seated upon a chair or throne of silver. The Peshwah's hands are then unbound. He prostrates himself before the Rajah, lays his head upon the Rajah's feet and the Rajah places his hand upon the Peshwa's head. The Peshwa has in one hand four or five pearls, and in the other four or five beads of coral, which, on rising from the Rajah's feet, he passes three times round the Rajah's head, as a Tussudook, or deprecatory offering, and then presents a Nuzzar of five Gold Mohars. The Rajah, immediately on receiving the Nazzar, takes a cloth from his own person, generally richly embroidered, but sometimes quite plain, and throws it over the Peshwa's shoulders; who, in return for it, makes three obeisances to the ground, and then retires to his proper place up on the Rajah's left hand. The place at the right hand belongs to the Prittinidhy, who, although the present head of the family, is now under personal restraint at Poona, has precedence of the Peshwa, as the Chief among the eight Pradhans, or original Ministers of the Mahratta State of which the Peshwa is only the second. The Peshwa, in addressing the Rajah, always calls him "Maharaja" but the Rajah, in addressing the Peshwa, calls him merely by his name, "Baji Rao" or frequently with greater kindness and familiarity, simply Baji Ba.

6. In public, the Peshwa never sits in the Rajah's presence; and, even in private he sits only when the Rajah desires him to do so. If the Peshwa is accompanied to Satara by the Rajah of Berar, or any of the other Mahratta Chieftains who nominally hold directly of the Rajah of Satara, they are received with him into the Rajah's presence, with forms generally resembling those observed by the Peshwa, but varying in some degree according to their different gradations of rank. If the Peshwa is accompanied by Holkar, or Sindhia, or any of the Chieftains who hold of the Peshwa and not of the Rajah, they are none of them entitled to the honour of being admitted to the Rajah's presence. The Maunkurries who are the ancient military tenants of the Moghul Empire are upon all occasions entitled to be received into the Rajah's presence; and, although the Peshwa himself does not sit before the Rajah in public the Maunkurries do. They hold immediately of the Emperor but the Peshwa holds only of the Rajah of Satara; and, therefore they take precedence. In all external forms and ceremonies of respect, the Maunkurries still preserve a superiority to the Peshwa. Whenever a Maunkurry meets the Peshwa the Peshwa makes the first Salam and if any personal intercourse takes place between them upon the arrival of Maunkurry at Poona, the Peshwa must pay the first visit.

7. The ancient jewels belonging to the Satara family have been securely preserved during all the revolutions that have happened in the Mahratta Empire, and are still kept at Satara under the charge of officers appointed by the Peshwa. The Rajah is allowed to have access to them whenever he chooses, and to take

any of them out, either for himself or his family to wear; but he is not permitted to dispose of them in any manner, or to give any of them away except to the Peshwa himself. They are said to be very fine; and, including the family plate, are generally computed to be worth about two crores of rupees.

8. Upon the occasion of every visit the Peshwa pays to Satara, he gives an entertainment to the Rajah and his family and receives one from the Rajah in return. The Peshwa gives his entertainment first. While the Rajah remains in the Peshwa's house, and even while he eats, the Peshwa stands before him with his hands joined, and formally goes through all the duties of a servant. When the Rajah leaves the Peshwa's house, the Peshwa makes a present of jewels and cloths to him, and to each of the persons by whom he is accompanied, according to their respective ranks. The present to the Rajah, the Peshwa offers with his own hands.

9. The entertainment to the Peshwa usually takes place two or three days before he leaves Satara. It is given at the Rajah's palace in the town. During the greater part of the entertainment, the Peshwa continues in the same room with the Rajah, and stands before him in the usual posture of respect. But the dinner is served up in a separate apartment, and when it is announced, the Peshwa returning there with his own immediate attendants. When the Peshwa leaves the palace, he is invested with a dress, and a sword and shield. But this ceremony also is performed in a separate apartment. The Peshwa retires by the Rajah's desire, puts on the dress and returns with the sword and shield to the Rajah's presence, and then performs his obeisances, and goes away.

10. The allowance made to the father of the present Rajah, for his personal expenses during the time of the Peshwa, Madhoo Rao, and Nana Furnavees, was very liberal. But the present Peshwa was so much offended with him for the facility with which he granted Khillats for investiture to the Peshwa's younger brother, Chimnajee Appa, in 1796, and to Amrat Rao's son, Vinayak Rao, during Holkar's usurpation at Poona, that he reduced his allowance to five hundred rupees a month, and continued it, at that small rate, until the Rajah's death in May 1808. The present Rajah's allowance is fixed at the liberal sum of six thousand rupees a month, exclusively of the frequent presents that are made to him by the Peshwa; and, ever since his accession, he has been treated, in all instances, with great consideration and indulgence. The Peshwa is personally upon very good terms with him and appears to be very much satisfied with his general character and conduct. The Rajah himself seems always desirous of meeting the Peshwa's wishes and he has particularly gratified him, by complying with the Peshwa's earnest request, that he would discontinue the use of the Braminical string, which the Rajah of Satara's family, though not Brahmins, have always been accustomed to wear.

11. I have delivered to the Peshwa your Lordship's letter, announcing your return to Fort William, and shall forward His Highness's answer to the Persian Secretary, as soon as I receive it from the Durbar.

12. Captain Sydenham arrived here on the 21st instant on his way from Hyderabad to Bombay, and went away again on the 26th. On the 23rd Lieut. Colonel Montresor came here from Seroor, to be introduced to the Peshwa, and to inspect the two battalions of the subsidiary force that are stationed at Poona.

13. On the 25th I called on the Peshwa with Captain Sydenham who took leave of His Highness, and on the 28th I accompanied Lieutenant Colonel Montresor to the Durbar, and introduced him to both the Peshwa and the Minister. His Highness was extremely civil and polite in his manner towards Captain Sydenham and Lieutenant Colonel Montresor, and made use of many kind and flattering expressions towards them both. He desired Captain Sydenham to remember him particularly to Lord Wellington and Sir Charles Malet, and talked for some time, as he is very fond of doing, of the entire security and ease he enjoyed under the influence of his alliance with the British Government and of great personal kindness and consideration with which he had invariably been treated by each successive Governor-General.

14. On both these occasions His Highness received us with more than usual state, at the old palace of the Peshwa, in which he formerly resided with his brother Chimnajee Appa, and where Chimnajee Appa himself still lives. Since I have been at Poona His Highness had never before received me at the old palace, nor has he, in consequence of the difference between him and his brother, resided in it for a considerable time. And I am afraid that his holding his Durbar there in these instances, proceeded partly from there being occasions of so public a nature and partly from Chimnajee Appa's being just now absent at Waee and not from any sentiments of returning affection between the brother.

15. Lieutenant Colonel Montresor returned to Seroor on the 29th instant.

16. I have great satisfaction in informing your Lordship that the person of the rebel Abdulla Khan has at last been surrendered by Appa Sahib Patwardhan into the Peshwa's possession. This point, of which Appa Sahib's pride seemed at first to make him so tenacious, having now been conceded by him, and most of the principal places in Savanoor having been delivered over to the Peshwa's officers, I hope that Appa Sahib will be induced, after some time, to give up the remainder; and that the mutual dissatisfaction which has of late been manifested, on so many occasions, between the Peshwa and the Patwardhans will now subside, at least as far as it is reasonable to expect it ever will subside. Every impediment that falls in the way of the desirable

object of preserving a good understanding between the Peshwa and the few ancient families that are still left in his Government is very much to be lamented.

17. The Peshwa talks of ordering Abdulla Khan and his two brothers, who, upon Captain Sydenham's application, were seized some time ago at Hyderabad, and delivered to the Peshwa's officers upon the frontier, to be sent under a secure escort to Savanoor, and of having them executed there rather than at any other place, in order to mark the example more strongly.

18. I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry has arrived at Poona from Goa, and that the Subsidiary Force is now therefore completed to the strength of Seven Battalions, according to the instructions issued some time ago by your Lordship.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Poona:
The 30th June 1810.

Translation of a letter from Appa Sahib Patwardhan to His Highness the Peshwa.

After the usual complimentary address.

Your commands dated the fourteenth of Moharram were received by me on the 16th of Rubboolawal that I should deliver up Abdulla Khan together with his family to the Karkoon of Anaba Raticur and that having found out the confederates of the rebel I should confine them and that I should deliver up the Desai of Agree who was a confederate of the rebel and whatever (Thannahs) posts were in the hand of the former manager besides whatever collections might have been made, into the hands of the Karkoon of Anaba Raticur. These were the commands that were issued in your letter. I will dispatch Abdulla Khan with his family to the presence. As to your second command that I should find out the confederates of the rebel, Abdulla Khan's brother, formerly escaped from the seige of Savenoor into a neighbouring district of the English, Gurdera Balawerra, I believe in the Zillah of Bellary, such is the common report. Within the . . . . there were numbers of men if the conduct of all is to be investigated into, at first Appa Desai having entered into an agreement with the men brought them out, or if it is your intention that the few that remain shall be enquired into, that Ramchandra Ananda, the former manager may ascertain this affair it is well. They are in confinement if in fact the aforementioned and the others were present the enquiry should be entered upon and they should be confined. The Desai of Agree is at Chedumbeer Picheet. In respect to the order concerning the Thanniahs Savenoor and the other Thanas have been delivered up to the Karkoon of Anaba Raticur. Hoopery and Kunjee and five or six other villages still are in my hands. On this subject, information by means of letter has been given to Bapoojee Appaji, Appa Sahib's Vakeel at Poona, who will personally represent it. In respect to your directions concerning the collections that have been levied I must represent that in addition to the established force, some extra foot were raised, and the guns and other things have been a great expense, being indebted to the bankers, I have applied them to the expenses of my troops, I hope that you will issue directions for the settling of this. I have before represented this.

A true translation.

Letter No. 17.—This forms an enclosure to Russell's letter to Jenkins. In his letter to Lord Minto, Russell mentions the interesting custom of giving alms to the Brahmins by the Peshwa. A brief reference to family history of the Peshwa in connection with Yashoda Bai, Madho Rao's widow, is also interesting.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 25th August 1810.

The Peshwa returned from Pandharpore to Poona on the 3rd instant. I met His Highness with the Brigade at a short distance from the city, and after stopping to exchange a few complimentary enquiries, rode with him along the front of the line. The Minister and Madhoo Rastiah and most of the principal persons in Poona had gone out to meet His Highness, and returned with him in his retinue. His Highness was on his elephant and had the Minister with him in the Khuwasee, Ganpat Rao Patwardhan, the youngest brother of Appa Sahib, whom I erroneously called Gangadhar Rao in my last address, was in the Peshwa's train. He was accompanied by only a few personal attendants.

2. On the 6th and 7th instant the Peshwa himself attended the Parvatee hill near the skirts of the city to preside at the celebration of the festival of the Dutchena which consists chiefly in the distribution of alms to a concourse of Brahmins, who are collected from all parts of the country for the occasion, some of them coming from so great a distance as Gujrat and Mysore. The number of Brahmins collected this year was estimated at forty-three thousand and the sum distributed among them amounted to three lacks of rupees. In the time of the former Bajee Rao ninety thousand Brahmins were once collected at the Dutchena and ten lacks and a half of rupees were divided among

them. During the last years of the present Peshwa's immediate predecessor Madhoo Rao Suwaee, the number of Brahmins usually amounted to seventy thousand, and an amount of seven lacks of rupees was distributed; even so late as the year 1807, the same number of Brahmins was collected and the same sum divided among them. But that was a solitary instance under the present Government. The Peshwa himself and especially the present Minister have introduced the practice so rigid a parsimony that the sum applied to the celebration of the Dutchena has every year been smaller than it was the year before, and I apprehend that in the future years they will go on reducing it by degrees until the distribution becomes little more than nominal. The complaints against the Peshwa at the Dutchena have already become louder than his praises.

3. A few days since the Peshwa sent me word that during his late visit at Satara, the Rajah's mother had told him that she had many years ago made a vow that if she should ever have any male children she would pay her devotions and offer up her thanks in person at the temple of Ramchandra at Pandharpore, that of Khande Rao at Jejoory, and at a celebrated temple dedicated to Shambhoo Mahadeo about a hundred miles to the southward of Poona. And that having now two sons both of them grown up she earnestly intreated that the Peshwa would allow her to discharge the obligations of her vow. The Peshwa told me he was apprehensive that if he did not comply with the Ranee's desire and if any accident should happen to either of her sons his refusal to allow her to perform her vow would be considered as in some degree the cause of it. That he was therefore reluctant to withhold his consent. That the Ranee would be accompanied by her son the present Rajah and the whole of their family that resided with them at Satara and that he should of course take care to have them escorted throughout their journey by a large body of troops on whose fidelity he could implicitly depend. But that he wished to consult me before he gave the Ranee a final answer or took any steps towards complying with her wishes.

4. The Peshwa told me at the same time that he had lately received an intimation from Yeshoda Bai, the widow of the late Peshwa Madhoo Rao who resides at Raigarh or Rairee the original capital of Shiwaji's Government, stating that the climate of Raigarh was extremely unhealthy and the place she lived in very inconvenient, and that she therefore requested that he would allow her to be removed to any other fort that His Highness should think proper to fix upon. The Peshwa told me that the climate of Raigarh certainly was not a healthy one and that he therefore proposed to comply with Yeshoda Bai's wish and thought for the present of removing her to the fort of Bassein which is on the sea shore in an open airy situation and where under the charge of a Anabah Raticur she would live with entire convenience to herself

and in point of security be just as safe as at Raigarh or any other place. But that he should not do anything upon the subject until he knew whether I thought the measure unobjectionable or not.

5. I told the Peshwa in answer to his communications that both the points on which he had done me the honour to consult me related exclusively to the internal concerns of his Government with which I had neither the authority nor the wish to interfere. But that every mark of His Highness's confidence was flattering to me and would I was sure be gratifying to your Lordship and that whenever His Highness was pleased to ask me for my opinion I should always be happy to submit it to him as well as I was able; that on the present occasion I saw no objection to His Highness's complying with the wishes expressed by the Ranee of Satara and Yeshoda Bai if His Highness himself saw none; and that it certainly would be very creditable to the kindness of his disposition to give his consent to such moderate natural requests if he thought that he could do so without any inconvenience or embarrassment.

6. The Rajah of Satara and his family will probably leave Satara in the course of the first week in September and be absent altogether about a month. They will be escorted by a force of about two thousand cavalry and two thousand infantry, composed of troops in the immediate pay of the Peshwa, and the Minister, and of the parties of some of the Maunkurries in whom the Peshwa has the greatest confidence. And at the particular request of the Rajah himself the whole is to be commanded by Trimbakjee Danglia one of the Peshwa's own personal attendants. It will be proper as a mark of respect that the Peshwa himself should receive the Rajah at Sasoor the point of his journey at which he will be nearest to Poona and as the distance is less than twenty miles, I should not be surprised if the Rajah were to prevail upon the Peshwa to permit him to visit Poona itself before his return to Satara.

7. Yeshoda Bai has been confined ever since the seizure of Poona by Holkar in the end of 1802. She is the daughter of an obscure person of the name of Goklah, and is now about twenty-four years old. The Peshwa attaches great importance to the object of keeping her person in security lest any party adverse to his interests should ever get her into their possession and prevail upon her to adopt a child, who in the course of events might be made in their hands a dangerous rival either to himself or to his own immediate heirs. And the Peshwa is more jealously alive to this apprehension from recollecting that upon the death of Madhoo Rao in 1795, it was the first and most favourite plan of Nana Furnaveese to make Yeshoda Bai adopt a son, and to place him upon the Musnud to the exclusion of the sons of Raghunath Rao, and that the present Peshwa and his brother were not sent for from Joonair, where they then resided in confinement until Nana found that the measure of setting them entirely . . . . . and

giving the Musnud to an adopted son of Yeshoda Bai, or rather that of taking the Government absolutely into his own hands under the veil of that arrangement, would not be submitted to by Sindhia and the other great Chieftains of the Empire. The rank of Yeshoda Bai will require that either the Peshwa himself, or at all events the Minister should attend her in person on the occasion of her removing from Raigarh to Bassein.

8. Your Lordship is aware that it has long been a favourite object of the Peshwa's to persuade his brother Chimnajee Appa to marry, and you will have seen by my last address that it has now become still more so than it was, from the Peshwa's being himself anxious to marry and thinking that he cannot do so with credit, unless his brother consents to marry at the same time. The Peshwa sent me a message a few days ago to say that having failed in all the direct attempts he had made to prevail upon Chimnajee Appa to marry he had now taken means to secure the assistance of most of those persons, who are immediately about his brother, and are most in his confidence in promoting the object of his wish, through their means, and that he thought it might have a good effect, if I would use my influence on the occasion, and tell his brother how important it was in his situation that he should marry, and how creditable and becoming it would be in him to meet on such a point the anxious wishes of the Peshwa.

9. I assured the Peshwa that nothing could be more gratifying to me, or to my Government, than to see His Highness and his brother living together upon friendly and if possible upon affectionate and confederate terms, and that I should always conceive it to be an essential part of my duty to promote so desirable an object by every proper means in my power. That in the present instance, however, I would recommend His Highness to rely upon the . . . . . . gradual endeavours of those persons immediately about his brother whose advice, from the habits of his life and the peculiarity of his temper and disposition, he would be more likely to listen to and who would not perhaps be suspected by him of having been employed by the Peshwa himself. That I apprehended any interference on my part on such an occasion would be more likely to defeat than promote His Highness's views, but that if Chimnajee should ever of his own accord consult me upon the subject, or give me a favourable opening to launch upon it, His Highness might depend upon my saying everything I could to induce him to meet His Highness's reasonable wishes.

10. The bad terms on which the Psehwa and his brother have been with each other ever since I came to Poona have prevented my having any personal intercourse with Chimnajee Appa, but he has always shown a disposition to keep up a friendly communication with me, which I have endeavoured to cultivate as far as I could do so, without giving umbrage to the Peshwa. Chimnajee Appa generally receives a portion of his allowance from the Peshwa

by an order upon the Rent of the Ahmedabad Farm which is paid from the Residency, and in several instances where he has had occasion to make representations to the Peshwa about his allowance, or upon any other subject, he has requested me to make them for him. It would gratify me very highly to think that it might be in my power to bring about anything like a reconciliation between the two brothers, but I fear the obstacles that stand in the way of it on both sides are insurmountable.

11. I have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that Bapoojee Goklah has got possession of the fort of Dummul. It was surrendered to him peaceably on condition of his paying the Dessaye of the place an annual allowance of eighteen thousand rupees. Goklah could have had little difficulty, I imagine, in taking the place if he had attacked it. But the Marhattahs of the present day seem always to prefer obtaining possession of a place by money to reducing it by force of arms.

Letter No. 18.—This is an enclosure to Russell's letter to Jenkins. In his address to the Governor-General, Russell raises an interesting point. That is in respect of how and whether he should pay a visit to the Rajah of Satara in case he visited Poona. The British Government had never recognized the Rajah as the master of the Peshwa in their treaties and engagements with the Peshwa. They had treated with the Peshwa as the head of the Maratha Government. Now the question is raised, if the Rajah was the real head being the master of the Peshwa, were all the treaties and engagements between the British and the Peshwa invalid? Russell seeks a ruling from the Governor-General.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 1st September 1810.

In my last address to your Lordship dated the 25th ultimo, I had the honour to state that the Rajah of Satara was about to make an excursion in the course of which he would pass Sassoor; that he would be met there by the Peshwa, and that as the distance from Seroor to Poona was less than twenty miles, I thought it not unlikely, that the Rajah should prevail upon the Peshwa to allow him to visit Poona, before his return to Satara.

2. I have since had reason to be confirmed in that opinion. The Peshwa has sent me a message to say that when he meets the Rajah of Satara at Sassoor, it is probable that the Rajah will be importunate with him to be allowed to visit Poona and that although he should resist the Rajah's importunity as long as he could do so with propriety he should feel himself obliged . . . rather than give any serious dissatisfaction to the Rajah. That I was thoroughly aware of the relation in which the Rajah showed towards the

Peshwa and that His Highness trusted, therefore, that in the event of the Rajah's coming to Poona I should pay the compliment that was due to his sovereign, by visiting the Rajah at the palace and inviting him afterwards to an entertainment at the Residency.

3. In this instance as in every other it would give me great pleasure to comply with the Peshwa's desire if I thought I could comply with it with propriety, and I am confident that I should meet your Lordship's wishes in doing so. But considering the peculiar nature, or rather the peculiar form of our connection with the Mahratta Government, it appears to me that I should not do in the present case what the Peshwa wishes me to do, without manifest impropriety and embarrassment.

4. All the treaties between us and the Mahratta State, are executed by the Peshwa only. We consider and treat him in all public transactions as the real legitimate head of the Mahratta Empire. We admit his seal and signature to give validity to the most solemn acts without any reference to the sanction of a superior authority. None of our public engagements recognise or suppose the existence of any such person as the Rajah of Satara and far from admitting the superiority of his power, the sufficiency of the Peshwa to conclude the engagements that we have entered into with him, rests entirely upon a denial of that supremacy though not expressed at least implied. If the Rajah of Satara is still the real head of the Mahratta State, the Peshwa's acts are not valid without the confirmation of the Rajah. And the inverse of the proposition must be equally true that if the Peshwa's acts are valid without the confirmation of the Rajah, the Rajah connot be the real head of the Mahratta State. But we do admit that the Peshwa's acts are valid without the confirmation and, therefore, we deny that the Rajah of Satara is now the real head of the Mahratta State.

5. If I were to visit the Rajah of Satara, my visit would be that of a private individual to another private individual, or to the prince of an independent territory unconnected either with us or with the Peshwa, in his official capacity to the Rajah of Satara, as the head of the Mahratta State. Such a visit therefore paid under the circumstances of form and publicity, with which only it could be paid, might be construed to amount to a recognition of the existence of the Rajah's supremacy, and to involve an acknowledgement of the invalidity of all those public acts, upon which our connection with the Mahratta State is founded, and by which alone it is sanctioned and confirmed. I do not say that any inconvenience or embarrassment would necessarily arise from my visiting the Rajah. It is sufficient for the regulation of my conduct that inconvenience or embarrassment might eventually be occasioned by it. And at any rate the step is one of so much nicety, that I do not feel myself competent to take it without an express authority from your Lordship for the purpose.

6. The great expense too of giving an entertainment to the Rajah of Satara at the Residency is of itself a strong object against the measure if it can possibly be avoided, especially where the time

would not admit for a reference to your Lordship, such an entertainment as it would be necessary for the Resident to give the Rajah of Satara, if he gave him any at all, could scarcely be given, I imagine, for less than fifty thousand rupees.

7. For these reasons I have determined not to visit the Rajah of Satara. I have therefore sent an answer to the Peshwa's message, discouraging the expectation of my holding any intercourse with the Rajah if he should come to Poona. I did not like to dissuade the Peshwa from bringing the Rajah to Poona, because he told me that he should bring him here, if he could not avoid it with propriety, and because my showing any anxiety on the occasion might give rise to suspicions in the Peshwa's mind, which I should not perhaps remove, without involving myself in a discussion which on a point of so much delicacy, I am extremely anxious to avoid. There are many ways in which I can get rid of the Peshwa's request, without telling him my real reasons for getting rid of it, and although I shall steadily persist in declining to comply with it, your Lordship may depend upon my doing so in such a manner as to avoid giving His Highness the least ground of offence or dissatisfaction.

8. The circumstance of the Peshwa's expressing a wish that the Resident should hold a public intercourse with the Rajah of Satara is a remarkable proof of the degree in which we have at length been able to subdue the characteristic jealousy of the Mahratta Government and of the favourable impression, that had been made upon the Peshwa, by our open honourable conduct. But, it is, at the same time, I think, a proof that the tendency of that intercourse has not occurred to his mind in the same light in which it has occurred to mine.

9. If the Rajah should visit Poona, I shall be careful to ascertain how the accounts I have received of the mode in which the Rajah is treated by the Peshwa are correct, and whether any relaxation of the forms that are mutually observed by the Rajah and the Peshwa in their intercourse with each other, takes place in consequence of the Rajah's leaving the seat of his own nominal court and coming as a visitor to Poona.

Letter No. 19.—In this letter Russell reports the causes of strained relations between the Peshwa and Appa Sahib Patwardhan, and seeks the Governor-General's guidance in the matter.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 13th September 1810.

When the Peshwa lately returned from Pandharpore, I learnt from him that Appa Sahib Patwardhan had called upon him on each of the two days that he remained at Pandharpore. On both occasions he stayed only a few minutes with His Highness. On the first day he merely told His Highness that he was on his way to Tuljapore, on a pilgrimage; on the second day, he said that he had come back to take leave of His Highness, to which the Peshwa merely replied. It was very well and desired that on his way back from Tuljapore to his Jagheer Appa Sahib would come by Poona to attend His Highness on the occasion of the Deshera, an annual festival at which according to the ancient custom of the Mahratta Government, all the different Chieftains ought to be in personal attendance upon the Peshwa. At first Appa Sahib gave no answer, and when the Peshwa asked him whether he had heard what he had said, he merely replied that he . . . . . without saying anything from which it could be collected whether he meant to comply with the Peshwa's desire or not.

2. The Peshwa appeared to be a good deal offended at the haughty reserve manner with which Appa Sahib had behaved to him at Pandharpore.

3. When Appa Sahib delivered up the person of Abdulla Khan on the point on which he had so long been pertenaciously resisted the Peshwa's orders, I was sincerely in hopes that he would soon see the propriety of restoring to the Peshwa the districts which he still retained in Savanoor, and that those at least of the causes of dissatisfaction between the Peshwa and the Patwardhan family which had grown out of the late operations in Savanoor would be effectually removed. It gives me therefore great concern to be obliged to acquaint your Lordship that the Peshwa's officers in Savanoor have not been able for several months past to recover possession of a single place or district from Appa Sahib, and that there appears to be quite as little prospect as ever there was of Appa Sahib's being prevailed upon to show any sort of respect or attention to the repeated orders that have been issued to him by the Peshwa.

4. Both the Peshwa and his Minister have complained to me upon the occasions of this conduct on the part of Appa Sahib, and in consequence of a particular conversation, I had with the Peshwa upon the subject, about two months ago, I sent for Appa Sahib's Vakeel at the time, and desired him to convey such a message from me to his master as I thought would be likely to produce good effect. But Appa Sahib has paid as little attention to my advice as he had done to the Peshwa's orders.

5. A few days ago I received a message upon the subject from the Peshwa expressed in much stronger and warmer terms, than any I had received from him before. His Highness . . . . . . the different causes of just . . . . which he said, I knew he had . . . . Appa Sahib. He said as far as his authority was concerned, the province of Savanoor was in very nearly as bad a condition now, as it had been during the very height of Abdulla Khan's rebellion. That he had got possession of the fort of Savanoor, it was true, but that by the last accounts that had

been received from Anaba Ratacur's Chief Officer on the spot, it appeared that Appa Sahib so far from giving up the greater number of the principal places as there was at one time reason to hope he had done, still retained in his own hands districts to the amount of near four lakhs of rupees a year. That Appa Sahib's conduct in all other respects too was as improper and unjustifiable as it could be. That he had lately extorted a sum of 32,500 Pagodas from the inhabitants of the country about Savanoor. That he had forcibly seized and kept possession of the fort of Miserecott, while the Peshwa's officers were actually in duty for its being given up to them by the persons who hold it, on the part of the old Subahdar, that he had refused to issue very positive order the Peshwa had sent to station a party of 500 of his cavalry with the officer, who had been deputed by Anaba Raticur, the new Sirsoobadar to take charge of the province, that he still perserved in exercising great severity and in committing great extortions, upon the inhabitants of all the Peshwa's districts in the neighbourhood of Savanoor. That it was with greatest difficulty the Peshwa could ever got an answer from Appa Sahib, to letters which he had repeatedly written to him under his own seal and signature, and that the language used both by Appa Sahib and his brother Madhoo Rao Dajee, whenever they had occasion to communicate verbally with Peshwa's Chief Officer on the spot, was far from being marked with that respect, with which His Highness had a right to expect his authority would be spoken of by his own subjects and servants. Upon this occasion the Peshwa added too, an old complaint which he has for many years past urged against the Patwardhan family of their still keeping possession of lands producing an annual revenue of about three lakhs and ten thousand rupees, which they had now held for twenty years under the pretext of recovering a sum of fifteen lakhs of rupees stated to have been disbursed by Parsuram Bahu in conducting the operations of Lord Cornwallis's campaign against . . . . . .

6. The Peshwa said that he had submitted to this conduct on the part of the Patwardhan for a long time but that there must be some end to forbearance, and that he was now determined to submit to it no longer. That he had therefore come to the resolution of resuming at once all the Suranjamee lands held by the family and in the event of their refusing to surrender them quietly upon His Highness's orders to move against them in person as soon as the rains were over, with Gokhla, Appa Desai and the Vinchore Jaghirdar's troops, and the parties of such other of the commanders in his service as he felt he could place the greatest reliance upon.

7 I saw that in the temper of mind in which the Peshwa was, it would be of no use to think of . . . . with him. I, therefore, endeavoured to pacify and soothe his anger as well, as was able. I told him that I was sensible as His Highness was of the impropriety of Appa Sahib's conduct, and lamented it as much.

कै. म. म. द. वा. पोतदार,
ग्रंथ संग्रह

That still, however, I could not have any doubt of Appa Sahib's being prevailed upon at last to do what he ought to do, and that at all events, His Highness might be assured that I would omit no means in my power to obtain for His Highness every satisfaction to which he was entitled. That I would send for Appa Sahib's Vakeel, and convey through him to his master such advice and remonstrances regarding his late conduct towards the Peshwa, as there could be little doubt, I hoped, of his seeing the propriety of and following and that for His Highness's satisfaction, I begged he would send his Minister Anand Rao to the Residency to be present at the conversation that would take place between Appa Sahib's Vakeel and me.

8. Both Anand Rao and Appa Sahib's Vakeel met at the Residency a few days afterwards. I asked Appa Sahib's Vakeel, if he had received any answer to the communication, which I had some time ago desired him to convey to his master. He said that he had not. That Appa Sahib had merely acknowledged the receipt of his letter and had said that he should answer it after his return to Tasgaon. I told the Vakeel, I was surprized to find that Appa Sahib had considered his letter as of so little consequence, and was sorry that he had allowed any delay to take place on an occasion where his own most important interest was concerned. I said that it had given me great concern to receive from the Peshwa a very few days before, another message complaining in very strong and apparently very just terms, of the improper conduct still pursued by Appa Sahib, and his officer in Savanoor. I distinctly repeated to the Vakeel all the particular instances, on which the Peshwa's complaints were chiefly founded, and said, I was convinced that there was not one of them, which even Appa Sahib himself, when they were pointed out to him, could deliberately justify or defend. I told him that Appa Sahib was as conscious as I was of the relation in which he stood towards the Peshwa, and that it could not be at all necessary for me to point out to him the obvious duties, which were proper to that relation. I said the accounts I had constantly received for many months past, of both Appa Sahib's and Madhoo Rao Dajee's proceedings in Savanoor have given me equal astonishment and concern and that I had anxiously though slowly looked for a decided change in their character and tendency. That I now recalled Appa Sahib's attention to the subject, and earnestly recommended him to take immediate measures for restoring to the Peshwa officers, all the districts that had been occupied by him, during the late operations in Savanoore, and for removing all the causes of dissatisfaction, that both his conduct, and that of his brother Madhoo Rao Dajee could not but have excited in the Peshwa's mind. I reminded the Vakeel of the constant disposition that had been shown by the Resident to cultivate the friendship of Appa Sahib and by the exertion of every proper degree of influence in his power, to maintain a mutually good understanding between the Peshwa and all the principal

families dependant upon his Government. I said the Vakeel himself knew the pains I had taken to adjust and compose all the unpleasant differences that had occurred between the Peshwa and Appa Sahib, and that he could not but be sensible, therefore, how distressing it must prove to me to find that all my efforts were rendered unavailing by Appa Sahib himself, having persevered in declining to follow the friendly advice, that I had been induced to give him. That the want of success which I had hitherto met with certainly had been such as to discourage me from taking any further steps in the business. But that as I was determined not to have to reproach myself with the omission of any means that were likely to avert unpleasant consequences, I had this once more sent to him to desire that he would distinctly repeat to Appa Sahib everything that I had said upon this, as well as upon the former occasion on which I had sent for him to the Residency. I said, I was reluctant to think it possible that Appa Sahib could, upon reflection, do otherwise than attend to suggestions which proceeded from so friendly a motive and were directed to the accomplishment of so beneficial an end. But that, if contrary to my reasonable expectation Appa Sahib still persevered in refusing to afford to the Peshwa that just measure of satisfaction to which he was indubitably . . . . the consequences of his conduct whatever they might be must fall upon himself alone. That I had done everything in my power, and that, happen what might, Appa Sahib would have nobody but himself to blame.

9. The Vakeel said that he had no means of answering anything that I had urged, that he had before communicated to Appa Sabih everything that I had said to him, upon the same subject, and that I might now depend upon his doing the same as accurately and minutely as he could.

10. In order to give greater weight to the Vakeel's communication, I at the same time addressed a letter to Appa Sahib, of which, I have the honour to transmit a copy and translation for your Lordship's notice.

11. I have every reason to believe that the complaints which the Peshwa urges against Appa Sahib and Madhoo Rao Dajee, are founded upon very just grounds. The whole tenor of Appa Sahib's conduct and of every member of his family since the very beginning of Abdulla Khan's rebellion in Savanoore, has been strongly calculated both in the acts they have done, and in their manner of doing them to irritate and disgust the Peshwa. But although this conduct has undoubtedly contributed to aggravation the Peshwa's resentment in a very considerable degree it is far from being the only cause, to which the hostile disposition of his mind towards the family is to be ultimately referred. The Peshwa can never forgive them the share Bhimram Bhau had in the revolution by which Chimnajee Appa was placed upon the Musnud in 1796, nor their own desertion of him in the time of his need, when Holkar and Amrut Rao had driven him from Poona, and the war

broke out with Sindhia and the Rajah of Berar. While the force under Major General Wellesley was preparing to advance from Poona in 1803, it was considered to be an object of great importance, that he should be accompanied by the troops of as many of the principal families dependant upon the Peshwa's Government as possible, and great pains were taken to prevail upon Appa Sahib in particular, who was then himself at Poona, either to move with the army in person or at least to send a body of his troops to co-operate with it. On one occasion when the Peshwa was endeavouring to obtain Appa Sahib's consent to the measure, he went so far as to hold out the skirt of his robe to Appa Sahib, a supplicatory gesture, in imitation of humility with which a beggar solicits alms, and earnestly intended that Appa Sahib would not abandon him in the hour of his distress. But Appa Sahib was inflexible and was not to be moved. It would be unreasonable at any rate it would be fruitless to expect that such conduct should never be forgotten or forgiven by the Peshwa.

12. The message which the Peshwa sent me, announcing his resolution to resume the Saranjami lands of the Patwardhan family, or eventually to move against them is to be considered I apprehend, more as the ebullition of his anger than as an indication of any fixed deliberate design. He must be thoroughly aware, how difficult it would be for him to collect a force superior to that which the Patwardhans if united among themselves could at all times command, and the assistance of the Subsidiary force he knows, he could not obtain, except upon those occasions where his right to demand it is indisputable. But the mutual dissatisfaction between the Peshwa and Appa Sahib has now run to so high a pitch, and Appa Sahib appears to be so little disposed to comply even in appearance with the Peshwa's most reasonable demands that it is not very easy to foresee the final result, to which their mutual differences may eventually lead, and I am extremely desirous therefore to be honoured with a communication of your Lordship's pleasure regarding the line, you would wish me to follow and the language you wish me to hold on the occasion. Until I have the honour to receive your Lordship's commands, I shall confine myself to endeavouring as far as possible to prevent matters going further between the Peshwa and Appa Sahib, than they have gone already, and if a favourable opportunity should occur, to enable me to effect anything like a composition of their disputes, your Lordship may be assured that I shall not omit to avail myself of it.

Translation of a letter from Henry Russell, Acting Resident at Poona, to Appa Sahib Patwardhan, dated the 5th September 1810.

After the usual complimentary address.

Some time ago, I received from His Highness the Peshwa, a communication, complaining of the conduct that had been pursued by you in several instances, the particulars of which I repeated in detail to your Vakeel at Poona. No doubt the letters of your Vakeel will have given you full information upon the subject. But no answer has yet been received from you, which has surprised me very much. Within these few days, the Peshwa has made another communication to me, complaining in still stronger terms than before of the tenor of your proceedings. The particulars of that communication also, I have minutely repeated to your Vakeel, and he will, no doubt, transmit a full statement of them to you. You will then know everything that has passed. It cannot but be evident to you that the disposition of the Peshwa's mind must have been rendered less favourable towards you than it was, and surely, therefore, it is more necessary than ever, that you should make a point of consulting His Highness's wishes, and attending to them upon all occasions, in order that his favour and kindness towards you may be restored, and for the future, may continue uninterrupted. I anxiously trust that you will be induced to do so. What I have communicated to you has been partly at the desire of the Peshwa and partly from the dictates of my own friendship for you. When you have received the letter that your Vakeel will now write to you, I trust that you will send an immediate answer to it, as well as to the letter which he wrote to you some time ago, by my desire in order that the Peshwa's mind may be satisfied, and that I may be relieved from the anxiety I cannot help feeling on the occasion. For the rest your wisdom is so well known that it is quite unnecessary for me to dwell more upon the subject of this letter than I have done. After this, you cannot expect that I can interfere to do more for you, than my friendship has induced me to do already.

A true translation.

H. RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 20.—In this letter Russell points out how the defiant attitude of Appa Sahib Patwardhan had forced him to support the Peshwa in his desire to make Patwardhan yield to his authority. Letters were sent to Patwardhan with this purpose and copies of Resident's and Peshwa's letters are given in the enclosure.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.
To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 30th November 1810.

I have already had the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's commands, through the Chief Secretary, on the subject of the differences between His Highness the Peshwa and Appa Sahib Patwardhan, and to acquaint your Lordship, that having reason to believe that Appa Sahib's Vakeel had written to him under the impression of considerable alarm, in consequence of my having refused to take any part in prevailing upon the Peshwa to accept the five orders of surrender he had brought to Poona, I had determined to wait until I could ascertain what Appa Sahib's conduct would be, on receiving his Vakeel's last letter, before I suggested the adoption of any farther measures towards him.

2. In a few days, I understood from the Vakeel that he had received an answer to his letter, which stated that Appa Sahib was then very much indisposed, but that when he got better and was cabable of attending to business, he would take the necessary steps for having the Peshwa's districts delivered over to the officers who had been authorised to receive them. Except this account received from Appa Sahib himself, I have not had any report of his illness. But I have heard that he has of late been particularly active in enforcing the collection of as much money as can be extorted from the inhabitants of the districts the Peshwa demands from him, and I think it most likely, therefore, that the story of his illness is entirely a false one, and has been fabricated merely that he may gain time to ascertain to what length the Peshwa is prepared to go, in the prosecution of his demands, and how far it is likely he will be supported by us, and at events that he may make sure of drawing as much money from the districts as he can, while they still remain in his possession. But even if Appa Sahib really was ill, it could hardly have been more difficult for him to direct his officers to deliver over the districts in their hands than it was for him to send an answer to his Vakeel's letter.

3. I therefore determined to proceed immediately to carry the principle of your Lordship's commands into effect. I requested the Peshwa to fix a day for my having the honour of waiting upon him and His Highness having appointed the 18th instant I called upon him at the palace in the afternoon and found him attended as usual by the Minister, and the Minister's Dewan.

4. I told His Highness that in compliance with his desire I had submitted to your Lordship a particular statement of all the complaints he had made of Appa Sahib Patwardhan's and Madhoo Rao Desai's late conduct in Savanoor, and that I had now had the honour to receive a communication of your Lordship's sentiments and commands in reply to my dispatch. That your Lordship had expressed your hope that Appa Sahib might still be recalled to a proper sense of his duty, without the painful necessity of having recourse to coerceive measure, but had authorized me, in the event of Appa Sahib's unfortunately persisting in his contumacious line of conduct, to acquaint His Highness that if he found it absolutely necessary to send a force to the southward for the purpose of reducing Appa Sahib to obedience, the Subsidiary Force would be prepared according to the provisions of the Treaty with His Highness's own troops and operate with them in the active prosecution of the service on which they were to be employed.

5. But I told the Peshwa at the same time that for similar reasons to those, which had all along made me desirous that the measures of His Highness's Government towards Appa Sahib should be lenient and moderate as they could be with propriety, I was now solicitous that before the actual adoption of coervice means one or more efforts should be made to open Appa Sahib's eyes to the duty he owed to the Peshwa and to the predicament in which he would place himself by obstinately continuing to violate it; and that I therefore recommend that letters should be written to Appa Sahib, both by the Peshwa himself and by me, enumerating the just demands of His Highness had against him, requiring him formally to comply with them without reservation or delay, and acquainting him, distinctly, that if he either refused or even hesitated to do so, a body of the Peshwa's own troops, supported by the Subsidiary Force, would immediately be put in motion against him to compel him to do that by force of arms, while an opportunity was still left him of doing quietly if he chose it. These letters I was in hopes would produce every good effect that could be desired, but even if they did not, it would be satisfactory to His Highness to reflect that he had done everything in his power to avert an extremity, and that the consequences to Appa Sahib, whatever they might be, had been brought upon himself exclusively by his own obstinacy and blindness.

6. The Peshwa said that when he had originally desired me to write to your Lordship upon this subject, he felt assured that your Lordship would in your wisdom take that view of it, which was best calculated to promote and confirm the real interests of his Government. That the purport of your Lordship's answer as I had communicated it to him was just such as he could have expected and desired. That I might safely assure your Lordship that he had no desire to avail himself of the services of the Subsidiary force, until the previous measures suggested by me had been tried and had failed. That he approved entirely of my recommendation that letters, such as I had described, should be written by both of us as a final warning to Appa Sahib and that if I would prepare a draft of my letter in such terms as I thought most advisable, and would send it to him, he would have his letter prepared to correspond with it.

7. I accordingly sketched a letter from myself to Appa Sahib and sent it to the Peshwa, and I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice an English and a Marhatta copy of my letter to Appa Sahib, and a copy and translation of the Peshwa's in the shape in which they have been finally adopted.

8. Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that in addition to the surrender of the districts and places, Appa Sahib has lately taken possession of in Savanoor and Darwar, the Peshwa's demands upon him are confined to the rendering due account of the unauthorized collections he has made from the Savanoor district while they have been in his possession, and the restitution of the

lands still held by him on the pretext of discharging the amount said to have been expended by Parashram Bhau in the operations against Tippoo.

9. The Peshwa's claim to the collections, which Appa Sahib has made from the Savanoor districts, while he has kept unauthorized possession of them, stands upon exactly the same ground of right as his claim to the restoration of the districts themselves. Though if Appa Sahib had consented to deliver up the districts within any moderate period, it might, perhaps, have been advisable as a measure of expediency to prevail upon the Peshwa to accept them without running the risk of keeping up the difference with Appa Sahib, and prolonging a system of altercation and complaint, merely for the sake of recovering the comparatively small amount of the collections that had been made. But Appa Sahib has persisted in retaining the districts for so unreasonable a length of time; he has already drawn by the most oppressive means, such large collections from them, and the desire of still continuing to reap the benefit of the same extortions he has hitherto practised is so evidently one of his chief motives for declining to give up the districts themselves, that I thought it right Appa Sahib should be required to render an account of his collections, not only to satisfy the Peshwa's unquestionable right, but also to destroy the inducement Appa Sahib has, to persist in keeping possession of the districts, merely for the temporary benefit of the revenue he derives from them.

10. If no other ground of complaint had existed against Appa Sahib than his still keeping unauthorized possession of the lands, which have been in the hands of his family for so many years without any other sanction than a tacit one upon the plea of discharging the balance of Parasram Bhau's military charges, there certainly would have been no good reason for agitating that question at this, rather than at any other time. Nor if it had stood alone, would it probably have occurred to the Peshwa to take any notice of it. But the Peshwa's right appearing to be unquestionable, and having been very strongly urged by him, during the discussions which have lately taken place I thought it both reasonable and expedient to concur in his availing himself of the present opportunity to assert it. When Appa Sahib finds the measures to which the Peshwa is prepared to have recourse against him, if necessary, and the heavy penalty he will incur by persisting in his disobedience to the Peshwa's orders, it is not probably that he will make any greater difficulty at surrendering these districts than at surrendering those, which he has lately seized, feeling as he must, that he has no more right to the one than he has to the other. But the right of Appa Sahib to the districts actually in his possession, having been now received and the surrneder of certain of them having been demanded from him, it might appear like adding some weight to the tacit sanction, by which he has hitherto held certain others, if they were to be entirely overlooked in the demand of restitution, and allowed to continue unquestioned and undisturbed in his possession.

11. The suggestion in my letter that if Appa Sahib pretends that any sums are still due to him from the Government, he may send an account of them to Poona by the same officer, who is to be deputed to settle the account of the recent collections in Savanoor and Darwar, who was made chiefly with the view of defeating any plea he might have been disposed to set up on that score, as a pretext for evading or delaying a compliance with the Peshwa's requisition. He must be so well aware that the result of that account would be against him, that he will probably be glad to avoid an examination of any of the particulars of it. If he does, I shall recommend the Peshwa on his part to receive the districts without going into any enquiry to ascertain either the extent of the just demand Parasram Bhau have had upon the Government, or how much may have been collected from the districts since the amount of that demand was completely satisfied.

12. When I sent the draft of my letter to the Peshwa, the Minister suggested some slight verbal alterations in it, and I readily consented to make. But at the same time, he proposed that in the 7th paragraph of the English copy, I should tell Appa Sahib that he was required to send to Poona the amount of the collections made by him in the Savanoor districts, instead of desiring him to send an officer here merely to adjust the account of them; and that the passages "What has passed has passed" in the beginning of the 10th and if you do this, "every thing that has lately happened may be overlooked" in the 12th paragraph should be omitted altogether.

13. I told the Minister in reply to his proposal that Appa Sahib was unquestionably bound to pay the Peshwa the amount of the unauthorized collections made by him in the Savanoor districts, and that one of the principal objects of the present letters was to oblige him to do so, but that it was evidently necessary that the amount should be ascertained before it could be paid, and that therefore, it would be quite useless to desire Appa Sahib to send the balance of the collections to Poona, before the account of them had been examined; unless, indeed, the Minister was prepared to abide by Appa Sahib's own statement, and to accept any sum he might choose to send as a final and complete satisfaction of the Peshwa's demand. That to this, the minister in all probability would not consent, but that whether he would or not, he must recollect that he had no more right to impose his statement absolutely upon Appa Sahib, than Appa Sahib had to impose his upon the Minister, and that therefore, the only way of doing justice to both parties was to require Appa Sahib first to render an account, and afterwards to pay the balance of it.

14. As to the two omissions the Minister wished me to make, the passages in themselves are hardly of any consequence and in preparing the letter originally it would have signified very little, whether they were made use of or not. But it was evident by what fell from the Minister, that his reason for desiring them to be omitted was that, he thought, they were to assure Appa Sahib

that if he did what he was now called upon to do, the Peshwa would be satisfied, and to shut the door against any additional demand which, when these complied with, the Minister probably thought, he would have a convenient opportunity of bringing forward, under the authority of our sanction and support.

15. I therefore told the Minister very plainly that I would not upon any account consent to expunge the passage from my letter. If the Peshwa really had any just demands against Appa Sahib, besides those mentioned in my letter, this I said was the proper time to advance them. I was ready to hear anything the Minister had to say upon the subject, and if he could satisfy me of the fairness of any further demands, to include them at once in my letter and put them upon exactly the same footing with those I had already inserted, but although so much discussion had lately taken place regarding the Peshwa's claims upon Appa Sahib, none had ever been mentioned to me, beyond those which had actually been taken up, and none such, I believe, therefore, had any real existence. That it had been distinctly understood between the Peshwa and me all along that the present measures were directed to satisfaction, not to revenge. That Appa Sahib was to be called upon to do what he was fairly bound to do, and that if he did so, no further steps were to be taken against him. That the whole spirit of my letter went to assure Appa Sahib of this and that I could not therefore consent to omit two particular passages which happened to express it more plainly and distinctly than any other. That it would be imposing upon Appa Sahib if I did, and that I felt hurt, the Minister should, for a moment, have suspected I was capable of forfeiting my character for fair and upright dealing, by lending my name to so mean and paltry a deception. That there was as little wisdom, too, as honesty in his proposal for if Appa Sahib once saw that his complying with the Peshwa's present demands would leave him in just as bad a condition as his resisting them which could hardly be supposed, that Appa Sahib would be blind to what was obvious to everybody else, how could it possibly be expected that he would do, that the fair avowed object of the present letter was to prevail upon him to do. That my letter, therefore, must either go as it is or not at all.

16. The Minister, finding that I had seen through the flimsy veil with which he had attempted to cover his proposal, immediately withdrew it and consented that my letter should stand as I had drafted it.

17. My letter was prepared and sent to the Durbar on the day after the audience of the Peshwa, but although the Peshwa's own letter was not ready to be dispatched before the 28th instant. This delay proceeded partly from the tediousness with which business of every kind is always transacted at a Marattah Durbar, and partly from the Minister's having originally drafted the Peshwa's letter in terms such as I could by no means consent to

He forced into it many points which were quite foreign to the subject, and departed altogether from that tone in which it was agreed by the Peshwa and me that our letters should be written, and it evidently appeared to be his object to frame the Peshwa's letter in such a manner as to deter Appa Sahib, if possible, from complying with the terms of it and to reduce him to the extremity of having the Peshwa's troops, and the Subsidiary Force sent against him.

18. It would be an abuse of your Lordship's time to trouble you with a detail of all the frivolous arguments advanced by the Minister, and all the vexatious altercations that took place between us, before the Peshwa's letter was brought to the state in which it now appears. Even as it is the letter is in some respects different from what I could have wished it to be. But the object of altering it still more is not worth the delay it would occasion and in the present instance, the defects of the *Peshwa's letter, are of less consequence for it is by the menace of our troops that Appa Sahib is likely to be intimated, and to my letter that he will look for the indications of what he is to do. Without them, all troops that the Peshwa could put in motion, and the letters he could write, would be equally unavailing.*

19. Both the Peshwa's letter and mine were dispatched by a pair of camel hircarrahs and would probably reach Tasgaon, the place of Appa Sahib's residence, in the course of three or four days.

20. It would be desirable, I think, with the view of increasing the Peshwa's disposable force at Poona, as well as of giving him an immediate check upon the conduct of the Patwardhans, that one of the members of the family should be constantly stationed at the capital, according to the old practice of the Marhatta Government, with a party of their Saranjami horse. And this appears to have been Colonel Close's opinion. But I have not included this among the requisitions now made of Appa Sahib, partly because I was apprehensive, he might consider it as a measure intended to felicitate the accomplishment of the design, he may reasonably suppose the Minister has, to get the family absolutely into his power, and, perhaps, eventually to deprive them of all their possessions, and partly because I though that the object, though certainly a desirable one, is not sufficiently so to make it worth while to run the risk of being obliged in the event of Appa Sahib's hesitating to comply with it, to send the Subsidiary Force against him, merely for the attainment of it alone. But if, by resisting the demands which have been actually advanced, Appa Sahib should make coercive measures necessary or if any other favourable opportunity should occur to allow other point being carried without difficulty or hazard, I shall then certainly not neglect to suggest to the Peshwa's attention.

21. Neither the Peshwa nor his Minister has renewed during our late discussions the project of resuming the Saranjami lands of the Patwardhans family nor do I think it likely that they will do so now. The Minister, I dare say, would be very glad to propose it as he thought he could do so with success but he must be sensible that it is . . . . I would resist, as long as I possibly . . . . with propriety. I doubt whether the Peshwa ever deliberately entertained such a design, but even if he did, the time for bringing it forward has gone by, and he is now fairly pledged if Appa Sahib complies with his present demands to suspend all further measures of severity against him, and to consider and treat him again, as he did before the rebellion in Savanoor broke out. If Appa Sahib, indeed, should contumaciously persist in his defiance of the Peshwa's legitimate authority, and place himself in a state of open avowed rebellion, it will then become a question, how far it may be consistent with the interests and dignity of the Peshwa to suffer him to retain the extensive possessions he now holds, and to continue in the exercise of the important duties which are annexed to them. But even in such an extremity as that, I should still, I confess, be disposed to think, it would be desirable, if anything could be found in the circumstances of the moment to admit of it, that the question should be considered, as one rather of expediency than of strict retributive justice. It is of considerable importance to us, from the local situation of the Peshwa's southern territories, that the persons to whom they are entrusted should have the power as well as the disposal to maintain them in tranquillity, and if the Patwardhans are brought to that state of obedience and subjection, in which they ought to stand. and their power is once reduced within its public limits, that desirable object is more likely, I think, to be accomplished by them, than by any new authority the Peshwa could substitute in their stead. I am aware that their conduct will always be liable to a certain degree of suspicion, and that the only satisfactory means of insuring their doing right may be to deprive them of the means of doing wrong. But the same, I fear, may be said with equal truth of almost every other person under the Peshwa's Government. There are very few who would be able to manage the southern countries so well as the Patwardhans manage, and there is hardly anybody who, if they had the same opportunities, would not be just as likely to abuse their authority, as the Patwardhans are. The Vinchoor Jagirdar and Anaba Raticur are, perhaps, the only persons in whose hands such a charge would be entirely safe, and they have already quite as much of their own, as they are competent to take care of.

22. As soon as the Peshwa's letter was ready, I sent for Appa Sahib's Vakeel to the Residency. I showed him a copy of my letter, and a copy of the Peshwa's and went over the same ground of discussion with him that I had so often gone over before. The Vakeel repeated what he had said on former occasions, that there could be no doubt of the justice of the Peshwa's demands, and added, he had been assured by Appa Sahib that if it had not been

for his illness, he would before now have done everything that Peshwa required of him. I told the Vakeel the plea of illness could be nothing but . . . . . . that he must see, I myself . . . . unwell, but, that, I did not make that reason for neglecting to do my duty. The Vakeel said that he should of course write to his master as he had always done, whenever I had sent for him, but that my letter and the Peshwa's were so clear and explicit that it could not be necessary for him to add anything in the way of detail, for explanation that he sincerely hoped Appa Sahib should now be wise enough to comply with the demands which had been made upon him. I said that I hoped so, too, that Appa Sahib would consent to his own interests, in not provoking the adoption of those measures, which were now hanging over him, for that he might depend upon it, if our troops were compelled to move against him, and the vigour and decision with which they would act, would keep pace with the temper and moderation, which had marked my conduct in every stage of the late discussions. The Vakeel said very little. He spoke entirely, I observed, of what he thought Appa Sahib ought to do, not of what he thought he would do, and rather collected from his manner that he had doubts whether Appa Sahib would not still persist in his defiance of the Peshwa's authority.

23. I have not thought it necessary to incur any expense yet, in putting the Subsidiary Force into a condition to take the field. But I have kept Lieutenant Colonel Montresor acquainted privately, with everything that is going on, and if it should eventually become necessary to put the force in motion, I have no doubt that its equipments will be prepared in a very few days.

24. Accounts have been received at Poona that Ramchandra Anand Rao the late Sirsoobadar of Savanoor died lately in the custody of Appa Desai at Manowly.

Copy of a letter from Henry Russell, Esquire, Acting Resident at Poona, to Appa Sahib Patwardhan, dated the 28th November 1810.

After the usual complimentary address.

Some months ago, I sent you a message through your Vakeel Bapjee Pandit pointing out to you the impropriety of your conduct, and that of your brother Madhoo Rao Dajee in Savanoor, and recommending you to act in a manner more becoming the relations in which you stand towards the Peshwa. But you did not pay any attention to my advice, and did not even send any answer to your Vakeel's letter.

2. I then wrote to you myself on the 5th of September, telling you that within a few days, the Peshwa had made another communication to me, complaining in still stronger terms than before of the tenor of your proceedings. At the same time, I sent for

your Vakeel, and pointing out to him very particularly the instances on which the Peshwa's complaints were founded and the means it appeared to me to be necessary and proper for you to take to remove them. And I desired your Vakeel to make you fully acquainted with the whole of the conversation that had passed between us.

3. I received an answer from you dated the 13th of September, in which you said that you had received my letter, and also a written statement from your Vakeel but that as you could not satisfactorily write a detailed answer, you had desired your Vakeel to come to you, that he might personally have the means of ascertaining the whole of the circumstances that had taken place and, on his return to Poona, state everything clearly to me. You also added that whatever might be determined upon by my advice, you would act according to it.

4. Your Vakeel accordingly went to you, and on his return to Poona brought me a letter from you, dated the 9th of October, and a long message, in which you acknowledged that you had done wrong in all the instances of which the Peshwa complained and declared that you were willing to do everything in your power to satisfy His Highness. You said that you had sent, by your Vakeel, orders of surrender for all the districts that had been taken possession of in Savanoor, and requested that I would do everything I could to prevail upon the Peshwa to overlook your misconduct. Your Vakeel also made to me many professions of friendship in your name, with which I should have been much better pleased, if you had acted in such a way, as to allow me to think they were sincere.

5. Your Vakeel sent me the orders of surrender that he had brought. There were five of them. One for the Pergunnah of Misericottah, one for the Pergunnah of Airnee, one for the fort of Havanoor, one for the Pergunnah of Kaakneelah, and one for the Pergunnah of Neelpoo. But you took no notice of the Pergunnah of Hoobly, or the Mousah of Agree, and, on reading the five orders, I found that you had rested the surrender of Misericottah upon the condition of the Peshwa's paying you 4,500 Pagodas with interest, together with the whole of the Sibundy and other charges that had been incurred while the districts had been in your possession. The orders for Havanoor and Airnee were addressed to only half belonging as you pretended to the late Sirsoobahdar, and not being subject, therefore, to your authority. The orders for Kaakneelah and Neelpoo were unconditional and if the other three had been of the same description and there had been also orders for the surrender of Hoobly and Agree, I should certainly have recommended the Peshwa to accept them all, and have done everything in my power to restore you to His Highness's confidence and good opinion. But as it was, you must have been fully conscious that it was impossible for me to take any steps in your favour. I declared so very plainly to your Vakeel at the time, both told him, that if he chose it, he might

still try to prevail upon the Peshwa to accept the five orders without my recommendation. I understand that he did make the attempt, but that as he must have foreseen, the Peshwa rejected the orders immediately.

6. Still however, I was not without hope that your good sense would induce you to do what was right and no further steps, therefore, were taken until after your answer should be received to your Vakeel's letter, in which he told you that the five orders of surrender had been rejected. Your answer arrived a few days ago and the purport of it is merely that you are too ill to attend to business just now; but that, when you get better, you will do what may be proper. Whether you really are ill, or not, I do not know, but you can hardly be so ill, as to prevent you from giving an order to your officers, to deliver up the Peshwa's districts that are in their charge.

7. The Peshwa declares that he cannot submit to this conduct any longer and I on my part feel it impossible to recommend him to treat you with greater lenity and consideration than he has already. You will now therefore receive a letter from His Highness requiring you to deliver up to Sadashiv Mahadeo, the Chief Officer on the part of Anabah Raticur, the present Sirsoobahdar of Savanoor the districts and forts you have lately taken possession of in Savanoor and Dharwar, as well as the other places which without any authority you have held for some years past, over and above your Saranjami lands under the plea of discharging the sum said to be due to you by the Sirkar and also to send an officer to Poona to adjust the account of the unauthorized collections made by you in the districts you took possession of during Abdulla Khan's rebellion in Savanoor.

8. All the districts that you are required to surrender, are particularly detailed in the Peshwa's letter.

9. You will observe by what the Peshwa writes that unless you immediately deliver over charge of all the districts and places demanded from you to Sadashiv Mahadeo without reserve or condition of any kind, His Highness has determined to send a body of troops to assert his right, and reduce you to obedience by force of arms and according to the terms of the Treaty His Highness's troops will be accompanied by the Subsidiary Force.

10. What has passed, has passed. But I now trust that your good sense will point out to you the prudence of avoiding such a predicament, as you will be reduced to, if the Peshwa should be compelled to carry this determination into effect, and, therefore, that you will not hesitate to do every thing that is required of you. The Peshwa will wait for an answer to his letter; and if it proves a satisfactory one, I shall still be happy to endeavour to efface, as far as possible, the deep impression your late misconduct has necessarily made upon His Highness's mind. But I only discharge the duty of a real friend, when I tell you plainly that you either delay answer the Peshwa's letter or send such an answer as is not

amply satisfactory, I shall not attempt to dissuade His Highness from ordering the troops to move against you, and to act with the greatest promptitude and decision.

11. It is now too late to have recourse to promises or professions. The only way in which you can give full satisfaction to the Peshwa is by sending Sadashiv Mahadeo's receipts, acknowledging that all the places described in His Highness's letter are actually in his possession, and by deputing an officer to Poona, without any delay, to settle the account of the unauthorized collections you have made in Savanoor and Dharwar. If you pretend that any sums are due to you by this Sirkar, you may send the accounts relating to your demands, by the same officer.

12. If you do this, every thing that has lately happened may be overlooked. If you do not, and the Peshwa's troops and the Subsidiary Force are obliged to move against you, you do not require to be told, what your condition will then be.

13. I shall again send for your Vakeel, and communicate with him fully on the subject of this letter and shall desire him to write to you particularly himself. I sincerely hope that this last effort to save you will not be thrown away.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL.
Acting Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Peshwa, to Appa Sahib Patwardhan, dated the 30th of Shawaul A. H. 1225 *or 28th of November* 1810.

After the usual complimentary address.

You have lately, without any authority, taken and kept possession of certain districts, villages and forts, in Savanoor and Dharwar, and besides, you have retained for a long time, over and above your Saranjamee lands, without any authority, the districts of Adoor, etc., under the pretext of discharging a debt said to be due to you by the Sirkar. You must now deliver them over to the officer on the part of Anaba Raticur the Sirsoobahdar of Savanoor. And you will send by an officer to the Koonzoor, an account of the unauthorized collections you have made in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts.

Orders were before sent to you from the Sirkar and letters were addressed to you by my Ministers upon the subject but you did not comply with them. I now therefore write to you again to direct, that you will deliver to the officer on the part of Anaba Raticur, all the districts, villages and forts of which you have taken unauthorized possession in Savanoor and Dharwar, as well as Adoor, and the other places, which also without any authority, you have kept so long in your hands. A memorandum of them is enclosed, according to which you will deliver them all, together with the stores, to the officer of Anaba Raticur, and take his receipt for them. And you will send an officer to the Hoozoor to adjust the accounts of the unauthorized collections made by you in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts. If you comply with the foregoing demands, in the space of twenty days, after you receive this letter, your conduct will be consistent with the obligations of your duty, and with the character of your family. But if you do not comply with them I shall send a body of troops against you, which will be accompanied by the British Subsidiary Force. I now give you warning for the last time, and you will act wisely, if you take it; if you do not, you will feel the consequences. Take notice of this.

(In the Peshwa's own handwriting).

What more can I write to you in the way of detail. On this subject Mr. Russell, the British Resident, also, will write a separate letter to you.

(Enclosed in the Peshwa's letter).

Memorandum of the districts, villages, etc., of which Appa Sahib Patwardhan has taken unauthorized possession.

Districts and places formerly taken possession of—

The pergunnah of Adoor.
The pergunnah of Goottul.
The Pergunnah of Seegaon.
The Pergunnah of Maasoor.
The Kasba of Hulgeeray.

Twelve Villages in the Talook of Meyndserah dependent on Kavanoor.

The Mouza of Sool dependant on Foregarh.
Districts, forts and villages lately taken possession of.

The pergunnah of Misericottah, in the Talook of Dharwar. in the Talook of Savanoor—

The Pergunnah of Kaakneelah.
The Pergunnah of Neelpoo.
The Pergunnah of Airnee.
The Pergunnah of Old Hoobly.
The fort of Havanoor.

The mouza of Agree, dependent on the Desai of Havanoor.

Besides these places, there is a demand against Appa Sahib for the amount of unauthorized collections.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 21.—In this letter Russell discusses the claims and counterclaims of the Peshwa, and Appa Sahib Patwardhan to the districts which the latter had been asked to hand over to the Peshwa and which he had not done in spite of the threat of punishment. Since he had disobeyed the Peshwa and had done nothing to comply with the wishes of the Peshwa and the Resident, a military force was to be sent against him. Russell discusses the fairness of the course of action and his objective in directing it.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 11th December 1810.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, copies and translations of the letters, which His Highness the Peshwa, and I have received from Appa Sahib Patwardhan in answer to our letters to him, dated the 28th of November, of which copies and translations were submitted to your Lordship in my last address.

2. These answers, your Lordship will observe, are not in any respect more satisfactory than those which I received to my former communications to Appa Sahib. Notwithstanding, the penalty, he was distinctly told, he would incur by persisting in his disobedience to the Peshwa's orders, he has not complied with them in any single instance. He still has recourse to more promises and evasions about the districts in Savanoor; and with respect to Adoor and the other places which he holds under the pretext of discharging the sum due to Parasram Bhau, he asserts very explicily that they were assigned to himself by the Peshwa, and he does not even profess that it is his intention to relinquish them on account of the collections he has made in the Savanoor Districts, he says he will send by an officer. The promise itself I have no doubt he never means to perform, but it is important, as it implies an acknowledgment that the collections have been made by him of the declaration that the Subsidiary Force and a body of the Peshwa's own troops would be sent to coerce him, if he persists in his defiance of the Peshwa's authority. He takes no further notice than to say, that he is not estranged from the feet of the Peshwa, or from the friendship of the Company, there was no occasion for writing it.

3. Appa Sahib continues to press that it is his intention to have Savanoor Districts delivered over to the Peshwa's officers and though he still pretends that they are not under his authority, he entirely changes the ground of procrastination he took before and does not make any reference either to his late plea of illness, or to the former order of surrender, he sent by his Vakeel to Poona. He says now that as soon as he heard of the death of the late Sirsoobadar, he deputed persons to take possession of the Fort and

districts in Savanoor, and to make them over to the Peshwa's officers. But this plea is, if possible, more feeble than those which he advanced before. It is quite absurd for him to pretend, that the death of an individual dismissed from his office, divested of even the semblance of authority, and actually in confinement in the hands of one of the Peshwa's servants, could have added anything to the facility of recovering the places of which the Peshwa demands possession. The fact of the revenues having been collected by Appa Sahib's officers, is a proof beyond all contradiction that the districts have, for all essential purposes, been subject to his authority, and Appa Sahib not only has not attempted to deny that fact, but he has even virtually admitted it. In enumerating the places he promises to make over to the Peshwa's officers, Appa Sahib now adds Agree to the five others, for which he formerly pretended to give orders of surrender, but he still takes no notice of Hoobly, one of the most important of all the seven that are in his hands. Appa Sahib cannot but be sensible that it must become necessary for him to give over these districts by and by, but he is endeavouring by evasion, to make the . . . . . . as distinct as possible, and the interval he is employing very profitably in pressing his forced collections to a most exorbitant extent and enriching himself at the expense of the permanent prosperity of the country. The injury it has already sustained from the extortions has been very great, and I am afraid that even if it is not altogether irreparable, it will be a long time before the effects of it are done away. The ordinary system of the Mahratta's, even under its most favourable form, is pernicious enough when it is administered by those whose interest is only temporary, and is aggravated by the licence and severity of extortion, it becomes altogether intolerable. The Peshwa's officer on the spot does not appear to have heard that any steps really have been taken by Appa Sahib for delivering over the districts to him.

4. In addition to Appa Sahib's declarations that the places he pretends to hold in satisfaction of a debt were actually assigned to him by the Peshwa. Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that in his letter to me, he asserts that upon their being resumed from him some years ago, by the officer of a former Sirsoobadar, they were restored to him upon an application, which was made to the Peshwa by General Wellesley and Colonel Close.

5. In point of fact, Appa Sahib appears to be correct in this assertion but the circumstances under which the application was made by General Wellesley and complied with by the Peshwa were of a nature exclusively connected with the policy of a peculiar moment, and did not in any way, go to affect the right by which Appa Sahib held the districts. The correspondence of General Wellesly, for the early part of 1803, is not upon the records here, but the following account has been given me of the circumstances to which Appa Sahib alludes. When the Peshwa had returned from Bassein to Poona, and General Wellesley had marched to the northward against Sindhia and the Rajah of Berar, one of the

first acts of the Peshwa's authority was to resume possession of those very districts. Appa Sahib immediately communicated the circumstance to General Wellesley who, fearing that it might give rise to serious dissensions in the southern countries and perhaps change the neutrality of the Patwardhans as a very critical moment into active opposition, desired Colonel Close to point out to the Peshwa the impolicy of taking such a step, just at that time, and to recommend him strongly to give up the districts for the present, and to defer the aggravation of any question of that kind, until a more favourable opportunity should occur. In compliance with this advice the Peshwa did recall his officers from the districts, which reverted immediately to the possession of Appa Sahib. But the Peshwa certainly never would have consented to do so, if he had thought that he was sanctioning or recognizing Appa Sahib's right in any degree whatever, or that he was in fact doing anything more than deferring the enforcement of his demand to a more convenient opportunity.

6. The records of the Residency during the time, at which the transaction took place, are very defective but they still contain a good deal of correspondence respecting the Patwardhans during 1804, in no part of which can I discover anything like evidence, either of any portion of Parasram Bhau's claim being supposed even at that time to be unpaid, or of the districts Appa Sahib now claims, having ever been assigned to him by the Peshwa's authority. On the contrary every thing that occurs tells decidedly against Appa Sahib. General Wellesley appears to have engaged during the war, merely, that the Patwardhans should not be attacked, as long as they were faithful servants of the Peshwa, and he always discouraged the plan of revenge, which the Peshwa meditated against them. But after peace had been concluded, and an attempt was made to settle the differences between the Peshwa and the Patwardhans, through our mediation, the General says in his instructions to Mr. Strachey, dated the 8th of July 1804, speaking of the negotiations he was to conduct with Appa Sahib : "There is one claim in particular which Appa Sahib will bring forward, viz., to hold the Savanoor District in custody, till its revenues will have, discharged a debt pretended to be due to Parasram Bhau, for expenses incurred at Seringapatam. You will answer to this claim that the debts . . . . . . have been discharged long ago, but . . . . . . all events, supposing it is not, he cannot be permitted to allot to its payment the revenues of Saranjami lands which everybody knows are universally applied to the payment of military service actually rendered." On another occasion too still speaking of a settlement between the Peshwa and the Southern Chieftains the General says in a letter to Colonel Close dated the 1st July 1804: "In case the conversation, which I have above detailed should head to an arrangement with Bala Sahib (Patwardhan) or the other Southern Chiefs, it will be necessary to ascertain exactly the amount of the Saranjami, Inam, or Jagheer possessors to which each Chief has a right from former grants, and to insist that each shall absolutely

resign all other lands of which he may have possession, which belong to the Peshwa, for which he may have no sunnuds." In a paper of requests, which must have been delivered by Appa Sahib to Mr. Strachey, some time in the month of August 1804, the 17th Article states, "some of the Mahals in Savanoor were assigned to me, for the liquidation of a debt, let them remain to me." But it does not appear by any part of Mr. Strachey's correspondence, which is recorded here, that Appa Sahib ever exhibited any sunnuds, or advanced any evidence of any kind whatever, to prove either that those districts had been assigned to him by the Peshwa or that the amount of the debt, he claimed, had not long since been discharged. He appears to have rested the demand of retaining the districts exclusively upon his own assertion, which, if he had had any instrument to show, or any evidence of any kind to adduce in support of it, it certainly is reasonable to suppose, he would have done. He had held the districts for many years, and seems to have desired, that long possession should be converted into indefeasible right.

7. The real history both of the debt and of the districts, according to the best information I can get, appears to be this. On the conclusion of the war against Tippoo a settlement of accounts took place, between Parasram Bhau and Nana Farnavees by the result of which, nineteen lacks of rupees were admitted to be due to Parasram Bhau. Of this, five lacks were paid at the time. As a set-off against the remaining fourteen, Parasram Bhau had possession . . . . of the whole forty lacks of country, ... Tippoo to the Peshwa, at the peace of . . . . under the plea of establishing the Peshwa's authority in it and he applied whatever may have been collected to his own use. He had the same country during the second year as a renter, and a considerable portion of his rent, for that year, is still unpaid. In the third year, a part of the country assigned to Parasram Bhau, as an increase of his Saranjami, and he was directed to make over the rest of it, to the Peshwa's ordering officers. The greater part of it he did make over, but Adoor, and the other places now demanded by the Peshwa from Appa Sahib, he retained in his hands under the pretext that some portion of the fourteen lacks was still unpaid and with the exception of the few months, during which Parasram Bhau was in confinement, on the present Peshwa's ascending the Musnud, and temporary resumption of them by the Peshwa in 1803 they have continued in the possession of the Patwardhans ever since. Neither the present Peshwa nor the Minister, were in a situation to have any personal knowledge of the transactions between Parasram Bhau and Nana Farnavees, at the time they occurred, but they both affirm very confidently that they never heard that any assignment of these districts had been made. So tenacious, indeed, were they of appearing to countenance Appa Sahib's claim, by anything like an admission that it had ever stood upon a just ground, that it was not without considerable difficulty I prevailed upon them to mark the districts distinctly in the

Peshwa's late letter to Appa Sahib, by saying, they were those, which he had retained, under the pretext of discharging a debt said to be due to him, by the Sirkar. The officers in both the Furnavees and Chitnavees Departments, to which transactions of this kind properly belong, are the same now, that were in office at that time, and they declare that they neither remember any specific order of assignment being granted to Parasram Bhau for these districts, nor can discover any entry of such a transaction, although a search has now been made by them, in their respective records, at my particular desire. At any rate, even if the Peshwa's authority to Parasram Bhau, there can be no doubt but that the amount of the debt . . . . been discharged over and over again . . . . . districts are rated in the Sirkar . . . . at three lacks and nine thousands . . . . a year, though it is probable that they may not now produce much more than half that sum.

8. Chintoo Pant Deshmukh, the present head of the Furnavees Department, told me, when I desired him to search the Records of his office the other day, that he had heard from the relation of his own, who is employed in keeping accounts in Appa Sahib's service, that Appa Sahib had added the demand he pretends still to have against the Government, the amount of the expenses incurred by Parasram Bhau, in effecting the Revolutions of '96, by which the present Peshwa was set aside, and confined, and, his brother Chimnajee Appa forcibly placed upon the Musnud in his stead. But there is something so glaringly audacious in the character of this demand, that I certainly should have been very unwilling to believe it, if it had not been for another very similar circumstance which has just now occurred, and which will serve to give your Lordship an insight into the peculiar insolence of Appa Sahib's disposition, and the present insufferable temper of his mind towards the Peshwa. Your Lordship will observe that Appa Sahib tells both the Peshwa and me, in his answer to our letters, that he means to send a Vakeel to Poona, besides the one that will be sent with the accounts of the collections in Savanoor. That Vakeel has arrived within a few miles of Poona, and I am assured by authority, to which I am disposed to give credit, that he proves to be a servant of Parasram Bhau's, named Balajee Pant Shasterboody, the very same person, who was employed by Parasram Bhau in securing the present Peshwa's person in Sindhia's Camp, when it had been resolved to set him aside, and who, in the execution of that duty presumed actually to strike the Peshwa, and push him with his own hands into the small tent in which he was to be confined. I hope the Peshwa will have dignity enough not to show in any other way, that he recollects this circumstance, but it can hardly be expected that he will admit the Vakeel to his presence. If he does not, I certainly shall refuse by seeing him myself to give the . . . . countenance to a measure, which . . . . but have been intended as a gross . . . . and unmanly insult to the Peshwa.

9. It is not very easy to conjecture what Appa Sahib's real intentions may now be. But notwithstanding the infatuation which has hitherto been apparent in his conduct, I cannot yet think, he will be mad enough to expose himself to the extremity of being attacked by us. He has probably been engaged to persevere in his resistance by a notion that the declaration of sending troops against him was used only to intimidate him, and will not be carried into effect. In this expectation, however, he will certainly find himself disappointed. The Peshwa having promised in his last letter that he would allow Appa Sahib twenty days to comply with his orders, it is reasonable that he should have the full benefit of the period. But if by the expiration of that time, he does not give some unequivocal conclusive proof of his intention to do every thing he has been directed to do, immediate steps will be taken for putting the troops in active motion against him.

10. There will be very little delay in preparing the Subsidiary Force to march, and I hope that, on the Peshwa's part, there will be as little as it would be reasonable to expect from a Native Government. The Peshwa has very few troops immediately at Poona; and at this season of the year, it would by no means be prudent to allow him to draw any from the northward. But Appa Desai, who is already at Nipani on the southern line with a very respectable corps of his own, will be directed to join Lieutenant Colonel Montresor on his march, and Goklah's party too, which is near Gokauk, also to the southward, but beyond Appa Sahib's possessions, will be placed at the Colonel's requisition. The present strength of Appa Desai's Corps is about 2,500 Horse, 1,500 Foot, and 10 guns. Goklah has hardly more I suspect than 1,000 Horse, 1,000 Foot, and 4 Guns. But both their parties, especially Appa Desai's who has lately been obliged to keep himself prepared for an attack from the Rajah of Kolhapore, and Chintaman Rao are superior to most others in the Peshwa's service, and they have also the peculiar advantage of having served before with our Army, and of being in some degree acquainted, therefore, with our manners, customs and with our method of conducting military operations.

11. Lieutenant Colonel Montresor will, of course, have the General's command over the Peshwa's troops serving with him, as well as over our own. But it will be necessary that the Peshwa should depute some officer of his own to communicate immediately with the Colonel to receive the orders, and to exercise a local control over the resources of the country. In the first instance, I shall recommend Anabah Ratikur to the Peshwa for that duty. He is a man of very respectable character and conduct, well versed in business and is also Sirsoobahdar of a large portion of the Peshwa's country, in the very direction in which the troops will be employed. But he is so useful to the Peshwa in different capacities at Poona that it is very likely he may object to part with him. In that

case, I shall take care that the selection of an officer to go in his stead, fall upon a person as well qualified for the duty, as can be found.

12. The manner in which it may be most advisable to conduct the operations against Appa Sahib, and the extent to which it may be right to carry them, must depend of course upon the measures pursued by Appa Sahib himself. It is not unlikely that when he hears the Subsidiary Force has actually marched from Poona, and finds that he has reckoned too confidently upon his security, he will immediately endeavour to save himself by complying with the Peshwa's orders. If he does, or even if he offers no resistance when the troops have entered his country, I shall desire Colonel Montresor merely to establish the authority of the Peshwa's officers in the district claimed by him, and to require Appa Sahib either to come himself to Poona or to send one of his brothers, with a body of the Saranjami horse, and also to depute an officer to adjust the account of the unauthorized collections in Savanoor. In any other event, our proceedings must necessarily be regulated by circumstances as they arise. But although I shall desire Lieutenant Colonel Montresor to act vigorously and decidedly against Appa Sahib in the event of his making any resistance, and to convince him that our troops have not moved to be . . . . . . with I shall still endeavour as far as possible to keep in mind the desirable object of being able to restore Appa Sahib to the original possessions of his family.

13. In the present condition of affairs, I see no reason to apprehend that Appa Sahib will be joined by any of the principal Southern Chieftains, even by his own relation Chintaman Rao of Sanglee, though they are none of them entitled to much dependance. It is probable that he may be assisted by his two cousins, Narain Rao Meritch, and Trimbak Rao Raghunath of Kooroondwaur, but their power and resources are comparatively small. In order, however, to prevent any alarm which might otherwise be excited by the movement of the Subsidiary Force and convince the different Chieftains that no designs of aggression are meditated against them, I shall write to them all myself, and recommend the Peshwa to do the same informing of the real object with which the Troops have been detached and assuring them that as long as they continue steadfast in their fidelity to the Peshwa, they will have ntohing to apprehend, either from the Peshwa or from us. Madhoo Rao Rastiah, who is one of the principal Southern Chieftains, is himself at Poona, and appears just now to be upon terms of cordiality and confidence with the Government. He has very lately, at the Peshwa's requisition, consented to surrender the strong Fort of Badaumee, and the town of Baugulkotta, the districts of which he had rented for some years; an instance of obedience, by no means among the Peshwa's military servants. His son, Balwant Rao, is stationed with a body of his Seranjami troops in

the neighbourhood of Baugulkotta about sixty miles to the south-east of Merritch, and I shall recommend the Peshwa to desire Madhoo Rao Rastiah to transmit orders to him to comply with any requisitions Lieutenant Colonel Montresor may eventually find it necessary to send him.

14. The number of Horse that the Seranjamee lands held by the whole of the Patwardhan family collectively are calculated to support, is now rated in the Sirkar to be at 5,700, of this number 2,100 are attached to Appa Sahib, 1,568 to Chintaman Rao, 1,282 to Narain Rao and 750 to Trimbak Rao Raghunath. They have no allowance for Infantry from the Sirkar. Such as they do maintain, is at their own exclusive expense, to garrison their forts, and discharge the ordinary duties of Sibendy. None of the Saranjami Chiefs keep up the full amount of the troops, for which their lands are granted, nor, considering the low rate at which the calculation for them is made, would it be reasonable to expect that they should. The ordinary force of Appa Sahib, Narain Rao and Trimbak Rao, altogether does not, perhaps, exceed 1,000 Horse, and 500 Foot. If the designs, Appa Sahib now mediates should be such as to induce him to increase his force, and of his two cousins should join him, they may form six to seven thousand Horse and perhaps about two thousand Infantry, the latter especially of a very inferior description. I do not think they could collect more within the time that is likely to elapse before the Subsidiary Force, and the Peshwa's troops arrive in their country. But I have not yet heard that any measures at all for increasing their force; nor indeed have I seen anything, hitherto, to indicate that the notion of resistance has ever entered into their contemplation. Merritch, which is the strongest of all the Forts in the hands of the Patwardhans, belongs to Narain Rao; Appa Sahib has only two forts, that appear to be at all respectable, Koosegul, which is said to have a double ditch, and a glacis, and Jumkhandy, which is described to be a tolerable good mud fort.

15. From the time at which it originally appeared to be probable that hostilities might take place near the frontier of the territories of Fort St. George and Mysore, I have made a point of keeping Sir George Barlow acquainted privately with everything that has been going on; and have prepared him for the necessity of taking measures of precaution to repel any incursions, which may be attempted into our districts, but the numerous freebooters who infest both the Peshwa's and the Nizam's countries in the neighbourhood of the probable . . . . operations. A few days ago, I had the honour to submit to your Lordship privately through the Chief Secretary, an extract from my letter which I had written to Sir George Barlow on the subject. A copy of the dispatch I shall transmit officially to the Government of Fort St. George. I should imagine that a corps, consisting perhaps of five Corps of Europeans, two Battalions of Native Infantry and a Regiment of Cavalry, with a couple of heavy guns, advanced from Bellary to

the neighbourhood of Beejanugger, and be in a very convenient position, both to protect the line of country from Moodgul to Harponnelly; and even to attack Appa Sahib's possessions from the south-east if necessary and to a Battalion of Native Infantry advanced from Canara towards Badnore would be amply sufficient to cover both Mysore and the low country in its rear.

16. I shall suggest to the officer in charge of the Residency at Hyderabad the expediency of recommending the Minister of His Highness the Nizam to assemble as many troops as they can in the Doab, in order to protect the south-west frontier of His Highness's frontiers, and to keep in check the numerous freebooters that swarm among the dependents of every petty Zamindar in that quarter. I am afraid, that the best force, the Nizam could at any time collect in the Doab, would be far from respectable either in the number or description of the troops but on such an occasion as this, it is desirable that his Government should at least assume an appearance of concert.

17. I have sent a confidential agent to the southward, with orders to remain in Appa Sahib's country, and eventually to transmit intelligence of his movements and preparations as well to the officer in command of the Corps which may be advanced in our own territory, as to Lieutenant Col. Montresor and me.

18. I shall immediately make the Bombay Government acquainted with the probability of the Subsidiary Force being required to move very shortly and shall request that they will have the goodness to take steps for providing a sum of not less than two lacks of rupees for the Deputy Paymaster of the force to take with him in advance.

19. Since the foregoing part of this dispatch was written, a letter has been received from Sadashiv Mahadeo, the officer at Savanoor, saying that Appa Sahib had sent an officer to him, proposing to give over Misericotta, Havanoor, Airnee, and Tilwullee (Neelpoo) to the Peshwa on condition that Kaakneelah, Agree, and Hoobly the three remaining places of the Peshwa lately taken possession of by him might be allowed to continue in his hands. I recommended the Minister to desire Sadasheo Mahadeo in answer to his desire to receive any places that may be surrendered to him absolutely by Appa Sahib but upon no account whatever to enter into any terms or conditions with Appa Sahib, by which he would be confirmed in the possession of the places he has seized.

Poona: HENRY RUSSELL,
The 11th Dec. 1810. Acting Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from Appa Sahib Patwardhan to His Highness the Peshwa, dated the 4*th of Zeecaad* 1225 *or* 2*nd of December* 1810.

After the usual complimentary address.

Your Highness wrote me a letter dated the 30th of Shawal (28th of November), which arrived the 3rd of Zeecaad (1st December).

It was written in your Highness's letter that I must now deliver over to the Officers of Anabah Raticur, the Sirsoobadar of Savanoor, the districts, villages, and forts, which I had lately taken possession of, without authority in Savanoor and Dharwar, as well as Adoor, and the other places, which I have retained for a long time, over and above my Suranjami lands, without any authority, under the pretext of discharging a debt; and that I must send by an officer to the Hoozoor, an account of the unauthorized collections I have made in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts. Your Highness added that Mr. Russell, the Resident on the part of the British Government, also would write to me.

As soon, therefore, as I heard of the death of Ramchandra Anand Rao (the late Sirsoobadar) I sent from this, officers and people to make a settlement of the forts of Havanoor and Airnee, and to take out his officers and people by whom they were occupied, and to deliver them both together with Miserikot and Kaakneelah and Tilwulee (Neelpoo) and Agree, altogether six forts, to the officers of the Sirsoobadar and to take receipts for them. As soon as the receipts arrive, I will then send them to your Highness.

Adoor and the other places of your Highness, out of kindness deposited in satisfaction of a debt.

The account of collections have been made in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts according to your Highness's orders, I will send by an officer to the Sirkar.

Your Highness also wrote that if, in obedience to your orders, I shall not act in a way that was consistent with the obligations of my duty and the character of my family, the troops of the Sirkar would be put in motion and the troops of the Company would march with the troops of the Sirkar that you had given me this last warning, and that it would be well if I attended to what your Highness had written, and obeyed your orders. That what more could you write in the way of detail. That the troops of the Company would march with the troops of the Sirkar, to effect an arrangement.

This was your Highness's pleasure intimated to me, notwithstanding my not having been, in any respect, estranged from your Highness's feet.

On this subject I shall dispatch a Vakeel to make a representation. He will submit it to your Highness. What have I besides your Highness's orders. Let your Highness be assured of this. Your Highness must show favour to me.

A true translation and copy.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from Appa Sahib Patwardhan to Henry Russell, Esquire, Acting Resident at Poona.

Dated the 4th of Zeecaad 1225 or 2nd December 1810.

After the usual complimentary address.

I have received the letter you sent. You wrote that His Highness the Peshwa had written a letter to me, directing me to deliver to the officers of Anabah Raticur, the Sirsoobadar of Savanoor, all the places and forts I have possession of, in Savanoor and Dharwar, as well as Adoor, and the other places I hold besides my Saranjami lands, in satisfaction of a debt, and also to send an account of the collections made by me in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts; and that it was proper I should do so accordingly. That, if I did not, the troops of the Sirkar would move towards me, and that a body of the Company's troops would move with them. You wrote this in particular detail. I have understood it.

As soon as I heard of the death of Ramchandra Anand Rao, the late Sirsoobadar, I sent from hence, officers and people to make a settlement of the two forts of Havanoor and Airnee, and to turn out his officers and people, by whom they were occupied, and to deliver them both, together with Miserikota, and Kaakneelah, and Tilwullee (Neelpoo) and Agree altogether six forts, to the officers of the Sirsoobadar, and to take receipts for them. As soon as the receipts arrive, they shall be sent to the Sirkar.

Adoor and the other places of His Highness the Peshwa, out of kindness, deposited in satisfaction of a debt.

The account of the collections which have been made in the Savanoor and Dharwar districts, according to the orders of the Sirkar I will send by an officer.

You wrote that a body of the Company's troops would march with the troops of the Sirkar. As I am not estranged from the feet of the Peshwa, or from the friendship of the Company, there was no occasion for writing this.

On this subject, and on the project of Adoor, and the other places deposited in satisfaction of a debt, as well as to make other detailed statements, and to submit the Representation (to the Peshwa) and to communicate with you, I shall send a Vakeel. You will understand everything.

Some time ago, Ramchandra Appajee, on the part of Lagoo, placed his own people in Adoor, and the other places, deposited in satisfaction of a debt. That circumstances was stated to General Wellesley, who wrote to Colonel Close at Poona, to apply to the Sirkar to have the places restored. The Colonel did make the application, and obtained an order to Ramchandra Appajee, by which means the General restored our authority, and had the places given back to us.

General Wellesley and Colonel Close have hitherto managed the discussions relating to the satisfaction of the debt. Out of friendship, you ought now to act also in the same way.

A true translation and copy.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 22.—This is only a covering note to the copy of his letter to the Governor-General. In this letter Russell points out the salutary effect of the sterm attitude and threat of coercive measures adopted by him against Appa Sahib Patwardhan to safeguard the interests of the Peshwa. The measures made Patwardhan to surrender the places and forts that he had occupied without authority for a long time.

From—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—R. JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 1st January 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you, a copy of my address No. 24, dated the 27th December 1810, to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

I have already had the honour to acquaint your Lordship, privately through the Chief Secretary, that Appa Sahib's Vakeel having waited till the expiration of the twenty days allowed his Master by the Peshwa's letter and finding that the troops were actually prepared to move to enforce the Peshwa's demands, had delivered to me a written engagement to produce orders of surrender for the fourteen districts and places claimed by the Peshwa, in the space of ten days, and the receipts of the Sirsoobadar's Chief Officer, acknowledging that they had all been actually delivered over to him in twenty days more, and also to render an account of the unauthorized collections made by Appa Sahib in the Savanoor Districts, in consequence of which I had consented to prevail upon the Peshwa to suspend the march of the troops from Poona.

2. I have now the satisfaction to inform Your Lordship, that Appa Sahib's Vakeel has actually delivered at Poona, the additional orders of surrender from his master for all the fourteen places claimed by the Peshwa, including as well those which had so long been held by Appa Sahib's family, under the pretext of discharging Parasram Bhao's balance, as those which were lately seized by him during Abdulla Khan's rebelion, and that Appa Sahib has instructed his Vakeel to assure the Peshwa that he will have the acount of the collections made by him, in the Savanoor Districts, prepared immediately and send them as soon as they are ready through an officer of his own, to Poona.

3. Letters have also been received by the Sirsoobahdar, from his Chief Officers at Savanoor, which state that Appa Sahib, without waiting for the orders of surrender he has sent to Poona being

formally issued by the Peshwa, has delivered over to him the districts and forts of Havanoor, Airnee, Kaakneelah, and Neelpoo, and has taken other parties of the Soobadar's troops from Savanoor to receive possession of the other places in the neighbourhood.

4. The Peshwa consented very readily to take the orders of surrender, and to accept Appa Sahib's submission. He appears to be thoroughly satisfied with the success of the measures that have been taken to assert his rights and vindicate his authority and neither he nor the Minister has lately shown the slightest disposition either to pursue any designs of revenge against Appa Sahib, or to advance any demands upon him beyond those which have been already made.

5. The orders of surrender have been given by the Peshwa to the Sirsoobadar and I have recommended that they should be sent to the Chief Officer at Savanoor, with instructions to carry them into effect, to receive charge of the districts and . . . . . the ordinary manner without applying to any of the neighbouring Chieftains for . . . . to strengthen his own parties. There can hardly be any doubt I hope but that all the places will be quietly surrendered upon Appa Sahib's orders, but if an unusually large number of troops were employed to take possession of them, there might be some hazarding quarrels happening among the troops themselves and of some violence being committed on either one side or the other, which it is very desirable to avoid.

6. The person I sent sometime ago to the southward to procure intelligence, writes to me from Tasgaon that none of the Patwardhans have increased their ordinary force, or taken any steps towards preparing for resistance. He says that Appa Sahib and his two brothers Hari Pant and Madhoo Rao Dajee now mutually reproach each other with the folly and imprudence of their late conduct and that Appa Sahib is reported to have written to your Lordship, appealing against the late measures that have been pursued towards him.

7. It is particularly gratifying to me, to have gained so fair a prospect of obtaining satisfaction of the Peshwa's just demands upon Appa Sahib, not only without resorting to the extremity of coercive measures, but even without incurring the expense of equipping the Subsidiary Force to take the field. But Appa Sahib's concessions have been extorted from him by fear alone. I made no sort of overtures to him, after I received his last letter, and at first I even appeared rather to repel, than encourage his overtures to me. He evidently thought that the menace of sending troops against him was meant merely to intimidate him and he waited to the very last moment to see if it really would be fulfilled or . . . . was necessary therefore to him . . . . . we were resolute and prepared. So long as there was any hope, that coerceive measures might not be adopted, or that the Peshwa

might not be supported by us Appa Sahib obstinately withheld every appearance of submission, and it was not until . . . . . seemed to be inevitable . . . . . found, there was no refuge or security . . . . in obedience that he consented to comply with the Peshwa's demands. The least symptom of hesitation therefore on our part, the slightest relaxation in the firm decided tone, I had assumed, would have retarded if not defeated our success, or at any rate would have . . . . . us to the necessity of attaining if by the adoption of those extreme measures which . . . . . . show of determination in the first instance, has now enabled us to avoid. All argument, all persuasion, all remonstrance would have been thrown away and I am satisfied that anything short of the absolute certainty that our troops would immediately move against him, would have encouraged Appa Sahib to persevere in his defiance of the Peshwa's authority and would in all probability have induced him to resist anybody of the Peshwa's troops, which might have been sent alone to reduce him to obedience. When Appa Sahib's Wakeel brought me the engagement to produce the orders of surrender in ten days, and I had allowed myself to be prevailed upon to advise the Peshwa to accept it, I still told him that he would be held strictly to the terms of his agreement, that if they were not complied with by his master, the troops would march immediately upon the expiration of the time allowed him, and that although I should recommend the Peshwa to wait ten days longer I should nevertheless urge him by no means to relax in his preparations, the consequence of which was that Appa Sahib prepared and dispatched the orders of surrender on the very day he received his Vakeel's letter and that he arrived at Poona two days within the time agreed upon.

8. The accomplishment of the Peshwa's demands upon Appa Sahib is in itself an object of some consideration but its chief importance consists in the consequences that will result from . . the strength it will give to the Peshwa's real authority and in the solitary . . . . it holds out to all the refractory Chieftains of his Government. The present is the . . . instance in which the Peshwa has been able to exact satisfaction of his just demands and the first proof his chieftains have seen that we are prepared to assist his power with our own, and to support him decidedly against the insolence and contumacy of his subjects. A general impunity would have encouraged them in their disobedience for they cannot be expected to see there is a crime where they do not see there is a penalty. Our moderation has also been shown as clearly as our strength. The Peshwa's demands have been confined by us within the strict limits of justice, and although we have supported him with our power, we have not gratified him his revenge. The principal Chieftains have received a practical assurance that none of them who continue faithful will be disturbed in any of their established rights and that protection will always be given them in return for their obedience, and they have seen that even Appa

Sahib has been allowed on his submission to retain all the ancient possessions of his family, and has been deprived of those only which he had usurped without even a colour or pretext of justice. The Peshwa's Chieftains are by no means so ignorant as they were of the leading principles of our conduct. They have now, I believe, as much confidence in our moderation as they have dread of own power, and nothing, perhaps would be so likely in any case to prevent a hostile combination among them, as their . . . that the Peshwa was guided by an advice at the same time that he was . . . . . by our troops.

9. But the effect our late measures have produced upon the different Chieftains will appear most satisfactory from the conduct they have themselves pursued. They have all been eager in their profession of fidelity to the Peshwa, and of the readiness to act in obedience to his orders and they have all conveyed assurances that they should in every case be . . implicitly by my advice. Chintaman Rao, the cousin of Appa Sahib . . . he has long been upon bad terms with him, wrote to his Vakeel at Poona to say that the interest he took in the . . . welfare and prosperity of the . . . made him anxious to do everything he could to save Appa Sahib from the ruin to which he was obstinately advancing. He desired his Vakeels to exert all the influence they could in prevailing upon the Vakeels of Appa Sahib to conduct their discussions at Poona in a proper and respectful manner, and in persuading the Peshwa and me to accept Appa Sahib's submission. He said that he was doing everything in his power to open Appa Sahib's eyes and to convince him of the necessity of complying with the Peshwa's demands, and that he had given him distinctly to understand that if he was made enough to think of resistance, and expected any support from him he would find himself egregiously mistaken for, that although he should be very glad to contribute to save Appa Sahib before it was too late, it could never be expected that he should do anything to involve himself in his ruin. Appa Desai on hearing of the preparations that were going on at Poona wrote immediately to say that his force was completely equipped for service and ready to move at a moment's warning, and that he waited only for the Peshwa's orders to know in what manner he was to employ it. At the same time he actually sent to his Vakeel there orders of surrender for some districts to a small amount which he has held for some time without authority, and instructed him to hint the circumstance slightly to me, and to delivery the orders to the Peshwa, if he had the smallest reason to expect they would be called for. Your Lordship is already aware that Bapuji Ganesh Gokhla has retained possession of all the Pritty Nidhies Saranjami lands ever since he defeated the Pritty Nidhi, and seized his person in the beginning of 1806. As soon as he saw a probability of the Peshwa's attacking Appa Sahib, he moved from the neighbourhood of Gokauk to the northward towards Meritch and referred to the Peshwa for

orders. He also contrived to have an intimation indirectly conveyed to me that if it was intended to resume all the lands held by Peshwa's Chieftains without authority he trusted that he might be allowed to surrender those in his possession, and to settle his accounts amicably with the Government without being exposed to the discredit of being threatened with coercive measures.

10. I have not felt myself authorized to take any steps towards availing myself of the favourable disposition of the Southern Chieftains without Your Lordship's knowledge and permission. But I confess I cannot help thinking that it points out a safe and easy method of reducing their power within its proper limits and effecting a most essential improvement in the Peshwa's Military Establishment. If all the lands held by the Southern Chieftains beyond those to which they have a right, under their Saranjami Sanads, were generally resumed, if they were each of them required to keep a party of their troops (perhaps one third) under the control of one of the members of the family stationed either at Poona or to the northward of it; and if the Peshwa . . . . prevailed upon the appropriate . . of the resumed districts to the . . . of a respectable body of horse in . . . . . immediate pay; all which I think might now be accomplished without either hazard or embarrassment, the Peshwa's domestic authority, would at once . . . placed in the best conditions of which it is susceptible; the very weakness of his Government, would be converted into its strength; and he would be raised to a situation to co-operate actively with us, according to the true spirit of the alliance, instead of being unable even to protect his own frontier against the irruptions of Banditti and obliged to look up to us for a support against the insolence and contumacy of his own subjects.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona:
The 27th December 1810.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 23—This is a covering note to the copy of his letter to the Governor-General in which Russell intimates that all the districts and forts usurped by Appa Sahib Patwardhan had been surrendered to the Peshwa except the district of Hoobli in which a rebel had refused to obey either the authority of Appa Sahib or of the Peshwa. Abdulla Khan the rebel had been blown up from the mouth of a gun and his two brothers had been executed. The second brother of Appa Sahib had

died at Tasgaon and Yeshoda Bai widow of Madho Rao had died at Raigarh. A reference is made to the conquest of the Isle of France by the British.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 10th February 1811.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 25, dated the 31st ultimo, to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

MY LORD,

1. Since the date of my last address to your Lordship, the Peshwa's Officers have been engaged in receiving charge of the districts and places from Appa Sahib Patwardhan. I have now the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that they have all been absolutely and unconditionally surrendered by Appa Sahib, and that the Peshwa's officers are in entire possession of all the districts, as well those near Savanoor, as those in the direction of the Toombuddra, which were held by the Patwardhans on the plea of discharging Parasram Bhau's balance, and of all the forts also, except Hoobley, which after Appa Sahib's troops and property had been removed from it, was seized by a person who was formerly in the service of the Sirsoobahdar, and who, as not unfrequently happens in this part of the country, now holds the place for himself and refuses to give it up either to the Peshwa or Appa Sahib. But the whole of the District of Hoobley is occupied by the Peshwa's Officers and as Appa Sahib has sent a party of his own troops against the rebel, I hope the fort also will soon be in their possession. No opposition or delay has been practised by Appa Sahib's officers in any of the instance, nor has there been the least difficulty in recovering any of the places out of their hands.

2. Appa Sahib's Vakeel told me some time ago that he had received from his master an account of the collections made by him in the Savanoor Districts up to the end of the last . . . . year, and that he was ready to go into the examination of it as soon as the Minister pleased. And a few days ago he showed me a letter he had received from Appa Sahib, promising to send the account for that portion of the present year which has gone by as soon as it could be made out by his officers after delivering over charge of the districts themselves. The Minister and the Sirsoobahdar, and Appa Sahib's Vakeel, will examine these accounts, I imagine in their usual dilatory way, and it is not indeed of much consequence whether they ever examined them at all

The principal object in requiring Appa Sahib to render an account of his collections, was to destroy the chief inducement he had to persist in retaining possession of the districts, and that has now been effectually attained.

3. Hari Pant Patwardhan, the second brother of Appa Sahib, died lately at Tasgaon. He had long been in a declining state of health. "His widow burnt herself with his corpse".

4. Abdulla Khan the person who excited and conducted the rebellion in Savanoor last year, and who had been in confinement at Poona for several months, was blown away from a gun by the Peshwa's order on the 19th instant at Jeejoory, and orders were at the same time dispatched for the immediate execution of his two brothers Peer Khan and Shabash Khan, who were seized at Hyderabad in February 1810, and have ever since been confined in the Peshwa's fort of Sholapur.

5. At the time the persons of Abdulla Khan and his brother were first secured it appeared to be the Peshwa's intention to have them all three executed immediately and when he spoke to me upon the subject I advised him by all means to do so. But so extraordinary a delay took place that I thought the Peshwa might have some intention for altering his mind and I therefore abstained from mentioning the name of Abdulla Khan to him any more. It seems now however as if the delay had proceeded from nothing more than the habitual slowness and indifference of the Mahratta character; and but for the accidental occurrence of a circumstance which recalled Abdulla Khan's crimes to the Peshwa's memory at the same time that it offered a convenient opportunity of punishing him, it is probable that he might still have been left in confinement neglected and undisturbing. The Minister lately reported to the Peshwa that two guns which had been ordered to reinforce the party under the officer at Savanoor, were ready and required His Highness's permission to dispatch them; by all means, said the Peshwa let them be sent off immediately and as they are going, Abdulla Khan may as well be blown away from one of them upon the way. Let him be taken up with them as far as Jejoory and executed there and let orders for the execution of his two brothers be dispatched at the same time.

6. In my address No. 14 of the 25th of August last I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Yashoda Bai, the widow of the late Peshwa Madhao Rao, had requested the Peshwa to remove her from Raigarh to some healthier and more convenient place and that His Highness had told me it was his intention to comply with her request and to remove her to Bassein. But no steps were ever taken for doing so and "Yashoda Bai died at Raigarh on the 14th instant". Her death certainly has relieved the Peshwa from an apprehension he always had that she might some day or other become formidable instrument in the hands of a party adverse to his interests though for the sake of public appearances he has gone through the customary forms of mourning for her as a relation.

7. The Peshwa was near Mhar when he heard of Yeshoda Bai's death. He immediately put an end to his excursion and returned to Poona, where he arrived on the 1st instant. He entered the city privately, directed that no notice whatever might be taken of his return and for several days would not see anybody even the Ministers.

8. Immediately I "received intelligence from Madras of the conquest of the Isle of France", I communicated it by a message to the Peshwa. He was then in the period of his mourning which prevented his taking any notice at the time of the communication I delivered to him. But as soon as it had expired he sent for me to the palace and expressed great satisfaction at our success. He made very particular enquiries respecting the situation, strength and importance of the Island, expressed great surprise at the facility with which the conquest had been effected and paid a number of compliments to the manner in which our measures had been planned and executed. He said his interests were now so completely identified with ours that he felt a victory gained by us was almost the same as a victory gained by himself and he desired me to offer your Lordship his hearty congratulations on the occasion.

9. Salutes were fired in our lines both at Poona and at Seroor in honour of the success of our arms against the Isle of France as soon as the intelligence arrived here. But in consequence of the Peshwa's mourning he was prevented from firing salute from his own guns untill the morning of the 29th instant.

10. The Peshwa told me that he meant to leave Poona on his annual excursion to Copergaon on the Godavery about the middle of February.

11. I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the 1st Battalion 8th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry arrived at Seroor on the 18th instant and relieved the 2nd Battalion 9th Regiment which marched on the following day towards its destination in Guzerat. The relief of this Corps commences the process of relief for the season.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY RUSSELL,

Acting Resident at Poona.

Poona:

The 31st January 1811.

Letter No. 24.—This is a covering note to a copy of his letter to the Governor-General in which Russell describes the widespread incursions of the Pindaries into Peshwa's dominions. He refers to the insistent desire of the Holkar to visit the temple of Khandoba at Jejuri and the inclinations of the Peshwa

towards it. He also mentions that he had taken formal leave of the Peshwa to proceed to Hyderabad where he was Resident on the arrival of Elphinstone, whom he was going to meet at Panwel.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 27th February 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 26 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, dated 25th instant.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

MY LORD,

His Highness the Peshwa left Poona on his annual excursion to Kopargaon on the Godavery on the 17th instant and arrived there on the 20th. At first His Highness talked of staying there as usual until May, but just before he went away he told me he intended to remain only a few days and to return to Poona in the beginning of March, neither the Minister nor his Dewan accompanied the Peshwa.

2. In my address No. 21, dated the 17th of November, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that the Pindaries had plundered a part of the Peshwa's northern territories. I am now concerned to acquaint your Lordship that they have made another and more serious irruption into Khandesh, some of them penetrating even as far as Godavery. It appears that a body said to amount to between twelve and fifteen thousand, collected in the first instance in the neighbourhood of Burhanpur . . . . . . of near five thousand first . . . . and advanced by rapid marches . . . . few miles of Copergaon, but hearing of the Peshwa's approach, they retired . . . . . the open villages by Yeola . . . . Sainkhair, three walled towns belonging to Vinchoor Jagheerdar, on each of which . . an ineffectual attack to a small . . . . . . Chandouree, opposite to Sainkhera on the . . . . where they still remained, when . . . . accounts came away. A second body of about the same strength followed the first by the route of Nassirabad, but moving with less rapidity, and I have not heard of their advancing father than Parowlah . . . . . Khandesh. The third body separated, after crossing the Tapty into small parties and spread themselves over the open country.

3. The resistance which the walled towns have made against the Pindaries has in every instance been successful. But although small detached parties of them have in two or three instances been attacked by the troops of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar, it does not appear that the whole of the Peshwa's force to the northward is

equal to expel them from the country, or even to afford protection to any of the open places. Including the troops that have accompanied the Peshwa to Kopergaon the whole of his force on the Godavery, and to the northward of it, probably does not exceed three thousand horse and three or four thousand infantry of every description.

4. By the latest accounts from the southward it appears that the rebel who has seized the fort of Hoobly still continues to hold out; some of Appa Sahib's troops, however, are acting against him, and I have endeavoured to make the Minister exert himself by pointing out to him how much discredit these repeated instances . . . . though contemptible resistance throw upon the character of his administration. He replied to me that he will detach some . . . . Appa Rao's party and do every thing in his power to prevent delay in the . . . . service but there is such a torpid . . . . a total want of anything like energy . . . . . . in every branch of the Peshwa's Government that I should not be surprised if some . . . . were still to elapse before the . . . .

5. Khandu Pant, Holkar's Vakeel at Poona, called upon me lately and prayed me with importunity to assist him in obtaining the Peshwa's permission for Holkar to visit the temple of Khande Rao, at Jejoory. I observe, by the Akbars that . . . . . has again talked for some time past of bringing Holkar to Jejoory in hopes of . . . . him to sanity of mind. Holkar himself is said occasionally to mention the subject with considerable anxiety and impatience, and by what is stated in the Akbars, it appears, I think, that Holkar, in his more lucid intervals, is disposed to leave the principal body of his troops in his own country, and to cross the Peshwa's frontier with only a few followers. But the principal persons about him seem to wish, that he should be attended by the whole of the troops that are now with him all the way to Jejoory.

6. I told Khandu Pant that the granting permission to Holkar to visit Jejoory depended entirely upon the Peshwa, to whom his application must therefore be made, and that, until that had been done, I was not prepared to enter into any discussion with him upon the subject; but that, even if the Peshwa should consent to the measure, I was convinced it would be only upon the condition of Holkar's leaving the main body of his troops in his own country and entering the Peshwa's territory with a small number of attendants. Khandu Pant said that the object of Holkar's visit to Jejoory was purely religious, he would of course agree to reduce the number of his followers within the limits that might be prescribed to him; that he hoped therefore his application to Peshwa would be countenanced . . . . . . by me.

7. As the first arrangement of Holkar's coming to Jejoory (if he is to..........................) will remain to be settled in concert with Mr. Elphinstone after his arrival at Poona. I have thought

it right to leave the matter entirely open for him. I lately took an opportunity, however, in the course of conversation to sound the Peshwa generally upon the subject and I found as I expected that although he had much rather Holkar would not enter his territories at all, still he would be disposed to give his consent to the measure upon any terms that might be recommended or approved by the British Government. But when Holkar approaches Jejoory, the Peshwa himself, I think, will leave Poona on the plea of an excursion perhaps, into the Kokan. His great apprehension seems to be that Holkar, when he is so near Poona, will be importunate to be allowed to visit him personally, and to that I am persuaded he never will consent.

8. The ostensible reason of bringing Holkar to Jejoory is to restore him to health and sanity of mind. But it is not, perhaps unlikely, that the measure may be connected with Tulsi Bai's views of obtaining from the Peshwa a Khillat of investiture for her son Malhar Rao, and possibly even with a design of seeking a permanent refuge in the Peshwa's territories from the thraldom of Meer Khan.

9. If the project of visiting Jejoory should prove to be inclusively founded . . . . . of its efficacy of restoring Holkar to . . . . and reason, your Lordship's instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's dispatch to me of the 13th December 1809 . . . . sufficient for the guidance of the . . . . conduct. But if it should appear to . . . . connection with both, or other of the . . . . . I have supposed in the preceding paragraphs of your Lordship's farther commands . . . . be required.

10. As it was probable . . . . . Peshwa went away, that I should . . . . . Poona before his return, I requested that he would be pleased to appoint a day for my having the honour to take leave of him. His Highness fixed the 16th instant and I accordingly went to the palace accompanied by the Gentlemen of the Residency in the afternoon of that day. The Peshwa received me in full Durbar and the different officers who usually attend him on occasions of public ceremony were all present. After sitting for a short time in the Durbar upstairs, the Peshwa proposed that we should retire to a lower apartment where we found a Dinner had been prepared for us. His Highness left his attendants in the Durbar but himself went down with us and sat at the head of the cloth on which the dinner was spread.

11. After dinner we returned to the Durbar. The Peshwa said that as this was the last time we should meet, he wished to have an opportunity of conversing with me before I left him with more ease than he could in public, and that he would therefore go through the form of giving me the customary presents in the Durbar, and then retired with me for a short time to a private apartment. His Highness accordingly presented me with a Jeegha,

a surpeich, a string of pearls and two trays of cloth and after giving Pan to the Gentlemen who were with me, he rose from the............ and took me with him into a small . . . . room.

12. I found that the Peshwa . . . . no particular subject of business . . . . . . to me upon. He mentioned, as he frequently does, his anxious desire to have his . . . . with the Nizam settled, and said he hoped . . . . . . whenever the question came to be . . . . would do everything in my power . . . . its early adjustment. I told His Highness, he might depend upon it, subject . . . . examined and settled as soon as the Governor-General could give his undivided attention to it . . . . . . whenever that might be, it would, of course be my duty to facilitate that part of . . . . . which depended upon my office at . . . . . . every means in my power.

13. The Peshwa then spoke of my going away. He expressed himself, as he always has done, with great personal kindness to me and said a number of civil things about the satisfaction of my conduct had afforded him while I had been at Poona. He spoke of the friendly advice I had given on every occasion when he had consulted me, and alluded particularly to the adjustment of his claims on the Patwardhans. He said he should always remember me with regard, and hoped it was possible we might still meet once more before I left India. I told His Highness it had always been my study to acquire his confidence and good opinion, and that it gave me great pleasure to find I had been successful. That he might depend upon it, the Governor-General would always have his real interests most sincerely at heart, and that he would find the Resident anxious to consult his wishes on every possible occasion. I said I should feel very much flattered by His Highness's recollection of me. That I should always retain a grateful sense of the personal kindness I had experienced from him. . . . . whenever I might be, should always feel cordially interested in the prosperity of his Government. That His Highness's wishes, I should always consider as commands, and that if it should be in my power to pay my respects to him once more before I left India, he might depend upon my eagerly availing myself of the opportunity to do so.

14. Mr. Elphinstone has arrived at Bombay, and will probably be at Poona by the 27th or 28th instant. It is my intention to meet him at Panowley, the first . . . . . upon the Bombay Road, and to have the honour of accompanying him to the Residency. I shall leave Poona for Hyderabad two or three days after delivering over charge of the Residency to Mr. Elphinstone.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
H. RUSSELL,
Acting Resident at Poona.

Poona:
The 5th February 1811.

Letter No. 25.—Elphinstone took charge of the Poona residency on the 20th February 1811.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

I have the honour to acquaint you that I have this day delivered our charge of the Poona residency to Mr. Elphinstone.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

I have the honour to acquire you that I have this day recovered charge of Poona residency from Mr. Russell.

Letter No. 26.—This is a covering note to a copy of his letter to the Governor-General in which he mentions that after he took over from Russell, the latter left for Hyderabad on the 2nd March. He refers to the attitude of the Peshwa in regard to the visit of Holkar to Jejuri, and advice that he had given the Peshwa, had been accepted by him. He also refers to the rebel who had occupied Hoobly and what he had advised the Peshwa about the manner of dealing with him. The incursions of Pindaries are also mentioned.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 23rd March 1811.

I have the honour to forward a copy of my address No. 1 of the 18th instant, to the Governor-General.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

MY LORD,

1. On the 28th February, I had the honour to report my arrival at this place, through the Secretary in the Political Department.

2. On the 2nd instant, Mr. Russell set out for Hyderabad.

3. The Peshwa arrived from Kopergaon on the 4th, but it was not till the 12th that a fortunate time was fixed by the astrologers for my presentation.

4. Nothing passed on that occasion that deserves to be reported to Your Lordship. As I had so lately been at the Residency, I thought it proper to assure the Peshwa of your Lordship's personal regard for His Highness and the particular interest you took in the welfare of his Government. The Peshwa . . . friendly and cordial. He . . . . appearance of sincerity on the . . . . security which he enjoyed since his alliance with the British, and on my saying that I should endeavour to render my conduct agreeable to him, as the best means of obtaining Your Lordship's approbation, he spoke in strong terms of the satisfaction he had derived from his intercourse with Colonel Close and Mr. Russell and assured me that he was disposed to comply to my advice in all affairs of importance connected with his Government.

5. A day or two after I had seen the Peshwa, I received a message from His Highness informing me that Holkar's Vakeel was very urgent to obtain. . . . . . for his master to come to Jejoory, that the Peshwa was extremely unwilling to allow Holkar to enter his territories, but that considering the occasion on which he was coming, His Highness did not think it proper to refuse him leave; that he would leave the whole arrangement to me, as he wished to have as little connection with Holkar as possible; that he was determined to retire to the Konkan to avoid seeing Holkar and that he should set out in two or three days, that his journey might not appear to be undertaken with the design of avoiding Holkar.

6. Though this was the first communication I received from the Durbar on the subject of the Peshwa's journey, his intention had for some time been public in the town, where it was ascribed by the common people to alarm at Holkar's approach. The impression made by Holkar's exactions on this city in 1803, are far from being yet effaced, and I was greatly surprized to learn that several wealthy inhabitants of Poona had already left the city, and that many more were prepared to do so, as soon as the Peshwa should set out on his journey.

7. In reply to the Peshwa's message, I said that I thought the resolution to permit Holkar to proceed to Jejoory was perfectly proper, but that it would be necessary to limit the troops which was to accompany him. I then begged His Highness would consider how . . . . . . became his dignity to quit his capital for the mere purpose of avoiding meeting with Holkar. I also noticed the effect which the report of his intention had already produced in the city, and recommended that His Highness should reflect on the matter again before he publicly announced his resolution. I observed that there did not appear to me to be any objection to the Peshwa's receiving Holkar; that if His Highness was resolved, not to meet him, he might send a person. . . him to Jejoory by the straight route which does not pass within many miles of Poona, and he might decline an interview with him even if he should come to Poona.

8. In answer to this, the Peshwa sent another message to say that he entirely approved of my observations on his projected journey, which he had determined to lay aside; but that nothing should induce him to admit Holkar into his presence after the injuries and insults which he had received at his hands. His Highness informed me that he should soon request my attendance at the Durbar to settle the answer which was to be returned to Holkar's Vakeel.

9. The Peshwa also desired to have my opinion on the manner in which it would be proper to treat a new Vakeel from Holkar, who is charged with presents for His Highness, and who is supposed to have been deputed for the purpose of procuring a Khellut for his master from the Poona Government. The Vakeel has been encamped in the neighbourhood of Poona for some months, and has not yet been admitted to an audience. In reply to this reference, I said I would recommend that His Highness should immediately receive the Vakeel and hear what he had to say, and that it might afterwards be settled what answer was to be returned.

10. This Vakeel has accordingly waited on the Peshwa, and he this day visited me: he brought a letter from Holkar to Your Lordship, which will be forwarded to the Persian Secretary's office Khandu Pandit, Holkar's residential Vakeel at this court, visited me some days ago and came today in company with the new Vakeel. He pressed me on both occasions to procure the permission, which he solicits early, but I contented myself with referring him to the Peshwa at the same time assuring him of Your Lordship's friendly disposition towards his master.

11. The fort of Hoobley continues to hold out an offer has been made by the Killedar to deliver it up to the Peshwa for a pecuniary consideration. The Peshwa communicated the offer to me and proposed to accept it, and charged the expense to Appa Sahib Patwardhan, by whose means the fort was lost. As His Highness desired to have my opinion I dissuaded him from agreeing to terms so favourable to a rebel, who has so lately seized on a fort of His Highness's without any colour of justice.

12. I have frequently sent for Appa Sahib's Vakeel, intending to urge his master, through him, to fulfil his engagements by taking Hoobly and delivering it to the Peshwa's officers, the Vakeel has always excused himself on different pretences from coming, and I have at last sent to him, to say that the Peshwa has applied to me on the subject of Hoobly and that if he does not immediately give me such information on the affair as I require, I shall be obliged to decide on it without reference to him.

13. The Pindaries, whose incursion was mentioned in Mr. Russell's dispatch to your Lordship of the 25th February, have retired by the Cosserburry Ghat, and have assembled at Burhanpore. It is said that they are about to make an incursion into the Nizam's province of Berar.

14. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the 1st Battalion of the 5th Bombay Native Infantry has arrived at Seroor, and relieved the 2nd Battalion 8th Regiment. The 2nd Battalion . . . . . Regiment which was stationed at . . . . been relieved by the latter Corps and marched on the 11th instant to . . . . . at Versovah, on the island of..............................

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Poona :

The 18th March 1811.

Letter No. 27.—This is a covering note to a copy of his letter to the Governor-General in which Elphinstone mentions the conditions on whch Holkar's visit to Jejuri had been conceded by the Peshwa. Holkar's Vakeels had pleaded with the Resident to induce the Peshwa to grant a Khillat to the Holkar and allow him to wait on him. He further mentions the complaints of the Peshwa against Appa Sahib Patwardhan and some of the Southern Jagirdars of the Peshwa. He also reports the death of the infant son of the Peshwa —his only child.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 17th April 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you, a copy of my address No. 2, dated the 13th instant, to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

MY LORD,

Since I had the honour of addressing your Lordship I have received several communications from the Peshwa and his Ministers, on the subject of Holkar's intended journey to Jejoory, and I have had one meeting with Holkar's Vakeel to settle the manner of that Chief's coming. I have now the honour to report the substance of the discussions which took place on those occasions.

2. I was first visited by Sadashiv Mankeshwar, on the part of His Highness the Peshwa. He began by saying that the Peshwa's first wish was to treat Holkar as an enemy, but that as that Chief had applied to come into His Highness's territories on a religious . . . . and as your Lordship appeared desirous

that his request ought to be granted His Highness was willing to allow him to come. The Peshwa, however, must be . . . said to request of me to take charge of the whole management of the affairs . . . that His Highness might have . . communication with Holkar; and that His Highness must beg me . . . conduct it, that he might not consider the necessity of having any interview with Holkar. After speaking of the calamities which Holkar had undergone, and of the impolicy of eternal enmities, I asked whether the Peshwa had any other objection to Holkar's coming into his country except what was suggested by his resentment The Bhau said that His Highness had several objections though none of them were strong enough to induce him to give an absolute refusal to Holkar's request. The first was that Holkar might intrigue with Appa Sahib, or some other of the Jagheerdars of the state. The second, that he might bring in the Pindaries and the third, that the troops who accompanied him might injure the country through which he passed.

3. I replied to these observations, that Holkar was not in a state to injure his neighbours, and that, if he were disposed to attempt it, the Peshwa might prevent his intrigues by vigilant control over his communications with His Highness's subjects and obviate the other dangers to be apprehended from his coming, by limiting the number of his troops, and by other arrangements on the part of His Highness's Government. With respect to the Pindaries, I said, if those freebooters were under Holkar's influence. they would be less likely to make irruptions into the Peshwa's country, while Holkar was in His Highness's power, than at any other . . . . . The Bhau did not appear to . . . . Holkar had any intention of . . . . from Meer Khan; but considering the proposed journey to be planned with that Chief's concurrence. We . . . . proceeded to settle the manner of Holkar's coming. In answer to different questions from me, the Bhau proposed that Holkar should be desired to leave his army at Indore, and to under . . . . restrain the incursions of the Pindaries; that he should march by the route of Chandore and Seroor; that he should be accompanied by 500 or at most by 1,000 men; and that he should not remain above a week at Jejoory and he remarked, that the time required for the usual ceremonies there was only three days. I assented to the reasonableness of all the Bhau's proposals, except that for obliging the Holkar to restrain the Pindaris, on which I observed that Holkar had not the power of doing so, as was shown by their ravages in his own country, which suffered more than the Peshwa's during their late expedition. I recommended that the number of Holkar's escort should be limited to 500, which I thought sufficient for the purpose. If Holkar refused to come with so small a body he would, I said, be the only loser. the Peshwa would be exempted from the odium of refusing to allow him to visit the temple of his tutilary God.

4. Sadashiv Mankeshwar next proposed that a Detachment of the Subsidiary Force should be directed to accompany Holkar while in the Peshwa's territories, which I resisted, observing that the Peshwa might, with more propriety, depute a confidential officer with a respectable party to meet Holkar on His Highness's part, and to attend him while he remained in the Poona territories. Mankeshwar objected to this, on the grounds of the Peshwa's reluctance to trust any of his Chiefs within the sphere of Holkar's arts, and of its being . . . . . to pay either Holkar or Sindhia the compliment of sending an officer to meet them. I replied that this point might be considered hereafter, but that it was obvious that the Peshwa must send somebody to watch the motions of Holkar's Durbar, whether the person deputed was accompanied by troops or not. The Bhau then asked me, on the Peshwa's part, whether I thought His Highness ought to send Chimnajee Appa . . . . . . place more secure than Poona, while Holkar was in the country to which I replied decidedly in the negative and, when Mankeshwar urged that Chimnajee was allowed to ride out wherever he pleased, and might take the opportunity of flying to Holkar I strongly advised him not to increase the animosity between the Peshwa and his brother, by giving the latter any grounds to believe that such a suspicion was entertained.

5. I mentioned in my last dispatch that a new Vakeel had arrived from Holkar. This person, whose name is Sakharam Pandit, is not intended to interfere with Khandu Pandit, with whom he appears to act in perfect concert. His mission appears to have originated in the custom of deputing a special messenger with the presents by the Maratta Chiefs to the Peshwa, but he is also charged to join with Khandu Pant, in pressing the Peshwa to invest Holkar with the Khillat of his rank.

6. I took the present occasion of asking the Bhau about the objects of this mission, and enquired into the Peshwa's intentions regarding them. Sadashiv Mankeshwar gave an account of the Vakeel's objects consistent with that which I have just stated, and said, that the Peshwa did not intend to give Holkar the Khillat of investiture, till he had paid the fine usual on such occasions. He said, the Peshwa's Sirdars usually paid a year's revenue of the lands which they held of His Highness and that the Peshwa would not grant a Khillat to Holkar unless he pays eighty laks of rupees. I remarked that I did not think His Highness and Holkar were likely soon to agree on this affair, but that it fortunately was one which did not require a speedy adjustment.

7. I waited on the Peshwa a few days after this conversation and His Highness repeated nearly what his minister had said. He spoke however much more earnestly of his wish to avoid a meeting with Holkar. He said at first that he was resolved never on any account to meet him but afterwards corrected himself and

said, I do not mean that I would not see him, if the Governor-General thought the policy of the allied states required it, but at present I am very anxious to avoid it. After everything had been settled respecting Holkar's journey, the Peshwa complained that I had not assured him that I should make such an arrangement with Holkar's Vakeel, as should secure His Highness from the necessity of receiving Holkar, I answered that I had not thought any assurance requisite, after His Highness had declared his determination; but that I should of course reject any application for an interview.

8. The Peshwa seemed pleased with this assurance, but said that it would be necessary to make Holkar's Vakeel sign a written promise, that all the conditions on which His Highness's permission was granted should be observed, His Highness said, he should send me a paper containing the stipulations he required.

9. I had afterward a visit from Holkar's two Vakeels, at which I informed them, in the least offensive manner I could, of the conditions which the Peshwa annexed to his permission for Holkar's entering his territories.

10. The Vakeels made some demur about the number of troops fixed by the Peshwa, but at last appeared satisfied with the condition which Khandu Pandit said he would write to his Durbar. He readily undertook that Holkar should employ his troops to check the Pindaries and should leave his army on the right bank of the Nerbudda.

11. Both the Vakeels afterwards requested me, in the most urgent manner, to endeavour to prevail on the Peshwa to grant Khillat of Investiture to Holkar before he set off on his pilgrimage and to allow him to wait on His Highness, either on his advance or on his return from Jejoory. On those subjects, on the ground of my having had no communication with the Peshwa respecting them, but the Vakeels continuing their insistance, and claiming my interposition as due to the Prince who was on terms of intimate friendship with the British Government, I told them that it was impossible an affair of the nature of that they alluded to could be settled for a long time, and that as their Prince's journey to Jejoory was, in their own opinion, of the utmost importance to his recovery, I would recommend their pressing the Peshwa's consent to it, and avoiding to connect it with any other point which might delay an object for which they were so anxious. The Vakeels admitted the prudence of this advice, but continued to press me to try how far the Peshwa was disposed to accede to their master's wishes with respect to the Khillat. After a very long conversation I agreed to mention their desire to the Peshwa, but apprized them that I reckoned them certain of a refusal.

12. I have not yet had an opportunity of communicating this wish of Holkar's Vakeels to the Peshwa.

13. At my audience of the Peshwa, to which I have referred above, His Highness entered very warmly into complaints of the conduct of Appa Sahib, who, he said, had solemnly promised to Mr. Russell that he would restore all the lands which he held without authority from the Government, yet still he continued to retain the fort of Hoobly, which was expressly named in the agreement into which Appa Sahib had entered with Mr. Russell. He said that this would only be considered as a fresh act of rebellion on the part of Appa Sahib, and that the least punishment that ought to be inflicted on him, was the resumption of all the Serinjamy lands. He also spoke with much indignation of the insolence of Madhoo Rao Rastia, who, His Highness said, had lately engaged to deliver up certain districts which he held without authority, on the payment of a sum of money. The money, His Highness said, was paid, yet Rastia still refused to deliver up the Fort of *Badammy* the most important of all the places in question. After similar charges against most of the other southern Jagheerdars, His Highness said that they were rebels and traitors, and that his earnest wish was to dismiss them all from his service. I endeavoured, in reply, to bring His Highness to views of greater moderation, I said that His Highness's most important claims on Appa Sahib had been adjusted, and that the few that remained would, I hoped, be soon completed under the arrangement which I should conclude with the Minister. That His Highness's just demands on the other Jagirdas were capable of adjustment without resorting to means of such extremity as he had referred to. As I was not acquainted with your Lordship's wish on the subject of the Southern Jagirdars, and was not well informed about the details of their disputes with the Peshwa, I made my discourse as general as possible and directed to discouraging no violent schemes which His Highness proposed.

14. The fort of Hoobly still continues to hold out. Appa Sahib has sent a few irregulars to besiege it, but he scarce maintains an appearance of wishing to reduce it. It is now, in fact, ascertained that the person who holds it is direclty under the influence of Appa Sahib. This appeared probable from the manner in which the place was occupied by its present possessor, and is confirmed by the conduct of Appa Sahib, who has lately sent the whole of that officer's family from his own residence at Tasgaon to the fort of Hoobly. I sometime ago sent for Appa Sahib's Vakeel, with whom I wished to speak on the subject.

15. The Vakeel declining to come on various pretences, I wrote to Appa Sahib, remonstrating with him on his neglect of a solemn promise made by him to the British Resident, and threatening him with the most serious consequences, if he persisted in his present measures. I trust Appa Sahib will be persuaded to fulfil his promises to Mr. Russell, but in the event of his failing to do so, I have no doubt it will appear to your Lordship that no course is left for the British Government, but to pursue the line in which it has already advanced so far.

16. It is with great concern that I have to acquaint your Lordship with the death of the Peshwa's infant son. This event has occasioned all the affliction to the Peshwa which might be expected on the loss of an only child. I waited on the Peshwa as soon as he appeared in public to condole with him, in your Lordship's name, on this melancholy occasion.

17. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry arrived at this place on the 8th instant, and relieved the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry which marched on the next day for Bombay.

Poona: M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 13th April 1811. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 28.—This is a covering note to a copy of Elphinstone's letter to the Vice-President in Council, dated 28th April 1811. In this letter Elphinstone recounts the circumstances that led to the present impasse about the fort of Hoobli which had been occupied by Mukund Rao in defiance of Peshwa's authority. Appa Sahib Patwardhan seems to be privy to it. The Peshwa therefore had determined to drive him out by force of Arms. The dilatory tactics, the subterfuges of Appa Sahib and the growing anger and dislike of the Peshwa towards Appa Sahib are clearly mentioned. The attitude of the British is also hinted. The insolence of one Balaji Pant Vakil of Appa Sahib is referred to in the Letter.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 12th May 1811.

I have the honour to forward for your information, a copy of my address No. 1, dated 28th ultimo, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

My last dispatch to Lord Minto was dated the 13th instant. As that dispatch may have been sent directly to His Lordship at Fort St. George, I have the honour to enclose a copy of it, for your Excellency's information.

2. I have stated in that dispatch, that the Fort of Hoobly continued to hold out, and that it was ascertained that the person who held it, was under the influence of Appa Sahib. As this fact appears likely to lead to further consequences, it is necessary that I should fully state the grounds of my opinion before I report on the correspondence which I have had with Appa Sahib or my conversation with the Peshwa regarding that chief.

3. The Pergunnah of Hoobly is one of seven districts in Savanoor which were taken possession of by Appa Sahib during the last rebellion in that province.

4. When Mr. Russell remonstrated with Appa Sahib on his retaining those districts after the settlement of the province, Appa Sahib sent conditional orders for the delivery of five of them to the Peshwa but took no notice of Hoobly or of . . . . of the district of Agree which was in his hands.

5. Among the five orders there were two for the forts of Airnee and Havanore, which were only . . . to half the Garrison, Appa Sahib alleging that the other half was composed of troops belonging to the late Sirsoobahdar of Savanore. Mr. Russell rejected those orders from a conviction that the troops alleged to belong to the Sirsoobahdar, were in reality, either in Appa Sahib's pay, or under his influence. As Mr. Russell's reasoning on this occasion appears to be conclusive and is closely connected with the present question, I beg leave to refer your Excellency to paragraph 8th, 9th and 10th of his dispatch, dated October 28th 1810, in which the point is discussed.

6. At a subsequent period about the beginning of December, Appa Sahib made an offer to the Peshwa's officer in Savanoor to deliver up four of the districts on condition that the three others, Kaakneelah, Agree, and Hoobly should be allowed to continue in his hands.

7. At last when the Subsidiary Force was about to March, Appa Sahib entered into an engagement to give up the whole of the districts, and afterwards sent orders of surrender for them all to Mr. Russell.

8. The orders of surrender of Hoobly is directed to Mukund Rao a servant of the late Sirsoobadar of Savanore. The district of Hoobly was evacuated, but Mukund Rao retained possession of the fort. Appa Sahib alleged, that he had withdrawn his own troops, who only formed one half of the Garrison, that the other half was composed of the troops of the late Sirsoobadar, and that the officer in command of them, Mukund Rao refused to deliver up the fort to him.

9. Mr. Russell still insisted on Appa Sahib's giving over the fort according to his agreement. Appa Sahib sent a party to Hoobly which did not amount at the utmost to 1,000 men, and

which never even make a show of annoying the Garrison, by whom, indeed, it was far outnumbered. Appa Sahib refused to take any more efficient measure without an order from the Peshwa, and this, His Highness positively refused to give, considering the request, in all the circumstances of the case, as an insult. The whole of Appa Sahib's men are now withdrawn from Hoobly.

10. It ought not to be passed over that the family of Mukand Rao were at Tasgaon in Appa Sahib's hands, till sometime after the commencement of his pretended siege when he sent them to Mukand Rao at Hoobly.

11. The above statement, I think affords sufficient proof, that the troops in Hoobly belong to Appa Sahib. If they were really independent of him, what induced him to withdraw his troops from Hoobly, while he kept them in all the other places. He could not expect that the Peshwa would deem that measure sufficient, as it had been already rejected in the cases of Havanoor and Airnee, nor could he have thought it less necessary to maintain his footing in Hoobly till he had delivered it to the Peshwa than in the other places, . . . which were so strong, and in . . . which he possessed undivided .

12. There is however . . . . reason to believe, that the troops . . . late Sirsoobadar are not in . . . independent of Appa Sahib . . . Sirsoobadar was Appa Sahib's . . . he was long since removed from his office and is now dead. Balum Bhut Watwa his Dewan and Principal Officer was till very lately in Appa Sahib's Army and the whole of the former officers are in Appa Sahib's hands. The Sirsoobadar's mother resided with her brother, Appa Sahib, till lately, when he sent her into the fort of Hoobly, where I believe, she now is. It is not probable that Appa Sahib would trust her safety to a Garrison over whom he had no control. But the best argument against the truth of Appa Sahib's assertion, that the Sirsoobadar's troops are independent of him, may be drawn from the cases of Havanore, and Airnee; Appa Sahib, at first, pretended to have no power to oblige the Sirsoobadar's officers to withdraw their share of the Garrison from those places, but this difficulty disappeared as soon as he was sincerely disposed to give them up. Appa Sahib's order to give up the district of Hoobly was not opposed by Mukund Rao, and, no doubt, that the surrender of the fort would have been obeyed, had it been equally sincere.

13. Appa Sahib, it appears, now represent Mukund Rao as an adventure, who has seized the fort of Hoobly for himself. But it is not easy to conceive of what use the fort, without the district, can be to a Bramin officer of revenue, unconnected with any powerful Chief, what means he possesses of keeping his troops together, or how he expects to resist the Sirsoobadar of Savanoore, whose force is amply sufficient to . . . Hoobly (supposing it unsupported) or not, to take it by assault. That he should be unconnected with any Chief . . . allowed to be improbable, and

becomes more so, when we find him in possession of the very place which Appa Sahib has all along shown the greatest anxiety to retain.

14. The real state of the case appears to be that Appa Sahib is particularly desirous of retaining Hoobly which is conveniently situated for enabling to renew his usurpations as soon as the present storm is blown over. . . . . view he first attempted to . . . . without assigning any reason, in the hope, perhaps, that the Peshwa would be contented with the other places, and would not run the risk of failing to get possession of them by insisting on recovering Hoobly. When this plan failed, he endeavoured to obtain it by negotiation with the Peshwa's officers at Savanore, and now expects to retain it by means of an improvement on the trick which failed to secure Havanore and Airnee for finding that the Peshwa would not consent to his giving up those places to the late Sirsoobadar's officers, he has given up Hoobly without consulting the Peshwa, and now pretends that it is not in his power to recover it. How far it is his wish is evident from his releasing the family of the person who holds it, and from his refusing to act seriously against it, on the absurd pretence that he has no order from the Peshwa, when he knows that the Peshwa is on the point of confiscating his Seranjamy lands, for failing to give His Highness possession of it.

15. I shall do myself the honour to report my proceedings on this affair. The paper given by Appa Sahib's Vakeel to Mr. Russell promising to deliver up all the places demanded of him within ten days . . . . 18th of December. When I took charge of the Residency on the 28th of February I found that Hoobly had not been delivered up, and no step had been taken to adjust the unsettled accounts between Appa Sahib and the Peshwa. I, however, believed that Hoobly was held by a subordinate officer of the Peshwa's Government, the Appa Sahib was besieging it and that difficulty would occur about the . . . . I continued to urge the Peshwa what Mr. Russell had done to . . . . of his own troops against Hoobly . . . I could get nothing from the . . . . but vague professions till the end of March, when the Peshwa proposed sending Appa Desai against it. As Appa Desai's force is composed, in a great measure, of Pindaries, and as he is on bad terms with the Patwardhans, I thought it extremely probable that he would plunder Appa Sahib's country on his passage, and thus provoke him to resist and being on a necessity for the march of the Subsidiary Force, I therefore requested the Peshwa to defer sending Appa Desai and the meantime to write to Appa Sahib, requiring him, peremptorily, to make over Hoobly and to adjust his accounts. The Peshwa could not be persuaded to write to Appa Sahib himself, as long as he continued to resist his orders, but he consented to my writing.

16. I accordingly addressed a letter to Appa Sahib, of which the enclosed No. 1 is a translation. As I had heard of his sending the family of Mukund Rao to Hoobly, I noticed it in this letter,

and urged Appa Sahib to make over the fort of Hoobly as in Appa Sahib's own possession. His Vakeel who had formerly refused to come, about this time expressed his wish to see me, but I refused to admit him till Hoobly should be made over to the Peshwa.

17. On the 20th of this month I received Appa Sahib's answer to my letter, I have the honour to enclose a translation of it (No. 2). Without adverting to the part of my letter, where I charge him with retaining the fort. Appa Sahib affects to speak of it as if it were not in his possession and says that he will send a force to take it, if the Peshwa will give him order to do so, and send him some guns. He says, Balajee Pant, one of his Agents at Poona, is ready to adjust his accounts with the Peshwa, and adds that on examination it will be found that the Peshwa owes him money on account of his expedition to Savanore.

18. Balajee Pant is the person mentioned in Mr. Russell's dispatch No. . . . as having struck the Peshwa, while a prisoner in his hands. The Peshwa has refused to see him, but has with remarkable forbearance admitted him as a Vakeel, and ordered the Minister to examine his accounts. Balaji, however, refuses to enter on business, till he shall have been presented to the Peshwa urging that he cannot act as a Minister till he has had an audience, as if he were an ambassador from a foreign state. As it is some months since the Peshwa refused to admit Balajee, it is probable that Appa Sahib's only reason for referring to him is to delay the adjustment.

19. I immediately communicated Appa Sahib's letter to the Peshwa and His Highness expressed a wish to speak with me on the subject. I attended him on the evening of the 18th instant.

20. On that occasion the Peshwa commented on the contempt which Appa Sahib showed for His Highness's authority, his disregard of his . . . to Mr. Russell, and the marked insolence of his letter to me, and said he had submitted to the insults of Appa Sahib, for 8 years, but that his patience . . . worm out He had therefore, . . . said, determined to dispossess him of the lands without further delay. The arguments which I had to urge aginst this measure will not be very numerous. I insisted chiefly on the impolicy of destroying a part of his state, on account of imperfections which he had the means of remedying. I said, Appa Sahib would, by judicious measures, be made . . . . subject, and dwelt on the long services of his family, and the advantages of continuing to employ him under proper regulation. To this the Peshwa answered that Colonel Close had used those arguments for several years, and Mr. Russell for a shorter period, but that he was now resolved, and that he could not on this occasion take my advice, nor even wait till I wrote for orders, that he was ashamed to speak so peremptorily, but that his patience was exhausted. Seeing that it was in vain to argue, I asked His Highness what means he proposed to adopt for expelling Appa

Sahib expecting that His Highness's answer would give me an opening for recommending a reference to the British Government. But His Highness, after saying that he should raise troops for the purpose, whatever might be the expense, that he should send Goklah and Appa Desai with his Army, and that he trusted he should not be refused the support of the British Government in so just a cause, declared that he would forbear once more as I wished it, but that if a single shot was fired from Hoobly he would expect me to say nothing further in opposition to his wishes, and he added that he should expect that the British Government would show the same interest it had always shown for the maintenance of his honour, and the support of his authority. I replied to this by urging the Peshwa to send troops without delay against Hoobly, adding that I had no doubt that his doing so would settle all difference with Appa Sahib without the necessity of resorting to . . . . measures. His Highness then said that he had already raised a considerable number of troops, and was raising more, that he preferred sending those troops to employing any of the Jageerdars as their horse would plunder all the countries through which they passed, but he observed that his own were new levies and little to be depended on, and that the capture of Hoobly would be greatly facilitated if a part of the Subsidiary Force were allowed to accompany them. In answer to this proposal, I commended the Peshwa's plan of sending his own troops, instead of those of the Jagirdars but observed that the capture of Hoobly was not a point of sufficient importance to require the services of the Subsidiary Force; that it would be easily taken, if Appa Sahib did not support it, and if he did, he placed himself in the relation of a rebel to the Government, and the Subsidiary Force would of course be ready to act against him according to treaty. The Peshwa still seemed to wish for the assistance of the Subsidiary Force, but he brought forward no further argument in favour of its employment.

21. The troops which the Peshwa is raising are to amount to 2,000 horse and 2,000 foot, half the number is, I understand, already completed, and the men who have been entertained are sent off, as soon as they receive an advance of pay, to Belgaon, a place of the Peshwa's within four marches of Hoobly, when they are assembled they will march against that fort, and will be joined by a force of irregulars and Infantry with some battering guns from Savanoor.

22. I have delayed writing again to Appa Sahib till I shall have an opportunity of ascertaining the Peshwa's real intention, I however requested the Minister to fix a time for me to visit him for this purpose but he has been prevented by indisposition from receiving me.

23. It is to be expected from Appa Sahib's former conduct that he will order Mukind Rao to evacuate Hoobly on the approach of the Peshwa's troops, but if the place holds out and appears likely

to resist the effort of Government, or if Appa Sahib appears to afford support to the Garrison it occurs to me that the obligations of the Treaty of Basseen will require the co-operation of the Subsidiary Force. This measure would be required by policy if it were not by good faith. It is now well known that the march of the Subsidiary Force was announced at the time when Appa Sahib engaged to surrender Hoobly and the other places, and if he be allowed to depart from his engagement, the avowed intention of moving the force will be considered as a threat which was held out to intimidate Appa Sahib, and which was never designed to be carried into execution; should such an opinion ever prevail, our weight with the Southern Jagheerdars will be greatly diminished, and we shall be obliged to employ force for the attainment of objects which are now yielded to the dread of our displeasure. The delays usual in the Peshwa's Government may possibly afford time for me to hear from Calcutta before any decision on this question becomes necessary in which case, I hope to be honoured with your Excellency's instructions, but should Hoobly resist the attack of the Peshwa's troops or should Appa Sahib support it, before I receive orders, I shall conceive it my duty to order the Subsidiary Force to move without delay.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona: M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 28th April 1811. Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from the Hon'ble M. Elphinstone, Resident at Poona, to Appa Sahib, dated March 30th, 1811.

You will have heard that Mr. Russell has been removed to the Residency at Hyderabad, and that I have taken charge of his duties at this Court. I hope the friendship which has so long subsisted between you and the Gentlemen in the British service, will continue undiminished between you and me.

You promised to Mr. Russell, after a long negotiation, that you would give up 14 districts in Savanore, and elsewhere, to His Highness the Peshwa. This you promised to do without delay, and you have delivered 13 of the districts. But it is a matter of great surprise, that although four months are going on since this promise you still retain the fort of Hoobly which is included in the 14 districts.

Your Vakeel stated to Mr. Russell that the Garrison of Hoobly did not belong to you but to the late Sirsoobadar, to which Mr. Russell replied that to whomsoever the Garrison belonged, you were responsible for the surrender of the fort to the Peshwa. It is now a month since this declaration, yet still the fort is not delivered nor have your people evacuated it; on the contrary you have sent the Governor's family from Tasgaon to Hoobly and there is no appearance of your intending to deliver up the place at all. Much more time cannot now be afforded, but out of regard for you, I am induced to apprize you that if you do not make over the fort of Hoobly without delay arrangements will be made for taking it, and the consequences will be on your head.

In the second place I have to observe that you have done nothing towards the settlement of your accounts and that it must be done forthwith.

If these two points be not adjusted in conformity to your engagements, I shall be under the necessity of making such arrangements as may secure their execution.

A true translation.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from Appa Sahib to Hon'ble M. Elphinstone, Resident at Poona, dated 19*th Rubbeeool Awul or* 13*th April* 1811.

I have received your letter. I understand what you say about the fort of Hoobly and the money which I collected.

Formerly I received a letter from Mr. Russell, and in conformity to what he wrote, I sent Balaji Pant to speak with him. He will have spoke with him ; now your letter is to the same effect, and will speak with you. When an order and guns and infantry, and other requisites come from the Government I will settle about Hoobly.

You write about the collections. Whatever money was collected was spent on the extra force and Infantry and guns belonging to the Peshwa which was employed against Undoo Khan (Abdulla Khan) and more is still owing to bankers.

The above mentioned Pant will explain all this matter by which it will be understood.

Write me in a friendly way and make me happy with accounts of your welfare.

A true translation.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona

Letter No. 29.—This is a covering note to a copy of his letter to the Vice-President in Council, dated the 9th May 1811. In this letter Elphinstone recounts the discussion he had with Sadashiv Mankeshwar, Peshwa's Diwan, regarding the measures to be taken against Appa Sahib Patwardhan. The causes of enmity between the family of the Peshwa and of Patwardhan are alluded to. The British Resident's proposal regarding procedure against Appa Sahib seems to have been accepted by the Minister.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 26th May 1811.

I have the honour to forward for your information, a copy of my address No. 2, dated 9th instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

Sadashiv Mankeshwar having recovered from his indisposition appointed yesterday evening to receive my visit.

2. I accordingly waited on him and desired to know the Peshwa's final resolution respecting Appa Sahib Patwardhan.

3. The Minister replied by reading a paper in which all the instances of Appa Sahib's disobedience which have occurred since the Peshwa's accession were enumerated. Those which made most impression on me related to his recent conduct in Savanore. He was represented as having begged the Peshwa to entrust him with the settlement of that province and when his request was granted to have wilfully protracted the war, so that he had possession of a part of the province for ten months while his troops levied at free quarters in the Peshwa's country. He was stated to have seized the officers of the former Governor of Savanoor and to have kept them in confinement for his own purposes, though repeatedly directed to send them to the capital, have embezzled the property, public and private, which fell into his hands and finally to have kept possession of the districts which he had reduced till threatened with an attack from the Peshwa's Army supported by the British force. The Minister said that Appa Sahib had promised to Mr. Russell to surrender those districts and to pay the amount of his collections within ten days. Mr. Russell had, with difficulty, persuaded the Peshwa to accept of his submission that he had delayed evacuating the strongest place of the whole, and now refused either to give it up or to pay the money which he had collected. In addition to these acts of treachery

and rebellion Appa Sahib had refused to march his contingent against the Pindaries, and had not even answered the Peshwa's order to that effect though two of his Highness's officers had been stationed with him for two months to enforce it.

4. The Minister then said that the Peshwa was collecting troops at Belgaon which he should send against Hoobly, at the same time, he should give positive orders to Appa Sahib to bring his contingent to Poona. If Hoobly was evacuated, the expense of the capture should be charged to Appa Sahib and if he refused to pay it, and the money which he already owed to the Government or if he neglected to send his contingent to Poona, the Peshwa would proceed to confiscate his Jagheer.

5. When the Minister had concluded, I acknowledged the justice and propriety of the Peshwa's insisting on the possession of Hoobly, and on being indemnified for the expense of taking it as well as on receiving the amount of the unauthorized collections which Appa Sahib had already agreed to refund, but I positively denied the expedience of requiring Appa Sahib to come to Poona with his contingent, a demand which I thought on no account to be brought forward in the course of the present discussions.

6. Sadashiv Mankeshwar having said that he thought the demand might be brought forward at present, with peculiar advantage as it would deprive Appa Sahib of the means of assisting the Garrison of Hoobly in opposing the Peshwa's troops, I pointed out the inefficiency of such a plan observing that if Appa Sahib had made up his mind to oppose the Peshwa's troops he would have little hesitation in refusing to come to Poona, and that if he were inclined to keep up appearances and assist the Garrisson underhand, he might send his contingent and entertain other troops for the defence of Hoobly; that no good effect could therefore be expected from the proposed measure while there was every probability that Appa Sahib would be driven to dispair by finding the Peshwa continually advancing new demands, and that there was a particular probability of his being alarmed by the present requisition as his compliance with it would place him at the Peshwa's mercy, during a period in which His Highness was avowedly offended with him.

7. The Minister seemed to consider it of no great consequence what effect the demand had . . . . . Appa Sahib and observed if he were to do his worst, the Subsidiary Force with the Peshwa's troops could take Hoobly and seize on Appa Sahib's Jagheers.

8. On my declaring my opinion that the expulsion of Appa Sahib from his lands was an evil that ought to be avoided by all means consistent with the Peshwa's dignity a long argument took place, the honour of which, the Minister said, that from the invecterate enmity between Appa Sahib's family and the Peshwa's, he never could be expected to have any confidence in His Highness;

that he had always disobeyed the Peshwa's orders; that no benefit was ever derived from the troops which he was bound to maintain; that his force might be employed to greater advantage if they were assigned to new Sirdars, like Goklah and Appa Desai, and finally that such a measure was absolutely necessary as nothing short of actual force would induce Appa Sahib to give up the point now in dispute. In reply to this I insisted that the enmity borne by Appa Sahib's family, in common with the greater part of the Maratta nation, to the Peshwa's father ought to be forgotten, and every argument founded on it laid aside that it was equally disreputable and impolitic to destroy the ancient families of the State. That as Appa Sahib had done more in obedience to the Peshwa's orders within the last six months than in the ten years which preceded them, I thought he might be brought to discharge all his duties towards His Highness, without extreme measures, and that for the same reason I was confident that he would fulfil His Highness's present demands without its being necessary to seize his Jagheer. I then asked in what respect Appa Sahib's conduct was worse than that of the other Jagheerdars and what induced the Peshwa to insist on depriving him of his lands at a time when although slowly and reluctantly, he was actually giving up his usurpations. The Minister said that the Peshwa did not intend to let off the other Jagirdars, and that I should hear of them hereafter, but in the meantime we had Appa Sahib's affair to settle, to which I replied if His Highness intended to bring forward any claims against the other Jagheerdars, it would be very . . . in him to proceed to extremities against Appa Sahib, after he had shown a disposition to submit, as such a course of action would convince the rest that nothing was to be gained by concession and that the Peshwa was only seeking pretences to . . . them.

9. The Minister here requested that two Battalions at least of the Subsidiary Force should be sent with the Peshwa's force against Hoobly not for the purpose of reducing that place which he acknowledged to have been thrice taken by the Peshwa's own officers, but to intimidate the Jagirdars and induce them to submit to His Highness's demands.

10. I observed, in reply, that I was not informed of the nature of the Peshwa's claims on the other Jagirdars, that I could not authorize the movement of any British troops for the purpose of acting against them till I was convinced of the necessity, and that the march of our troops for the avowed purpose of taking Hoobly would rather encourage than intimidate the Jagirdars as it would lead them to think the Peshwa's own force inadequate to the reduction of so insignificant a place. Perceiving, at last, that there was no prospect of the Minister's bringing forward any moderate plan of operations, I wished to have informed him that which I propsed to pursue was to write to Appa Sahib as soon as the

Peshwa's troops were ready to move, acquainting him of the preparations that were made against Hoobly, and informing him that if that place were not evacuated before the Peshwa's troops moved, the expenses of the armament would fall on him; that if he offered any resistance to the Peshwa or if he delayed to fulfil the article of his engagements to Mr. Russell which related to the adjustment of accounts, the Peshwa's troops would proceed to attack his lands and would be supported by the British force. I had not, however, got further than the mention of my writing to Appa Sahib, when I was interrupted by the Minister, who told me that after a long and fruitless negotiation, the British troops with those of the Peshwa had been on the point of marching against Appa Sahib when that Chief agreed to give up all the points contested, among which were those now under discussion, that Mr. Russell had then interceded with the Peshwa and stopped the march of the troops, that he had taken the execution of Appa Sahib's agreement on himself, and had declared that if all the articles were not fulfilled within 20 days the Peshwa should be at liberty to proceed as he pleased; that Appa Sahib had failed in his engagements, and on my writing to remind him of them, had returned a most insolent and contemptuous reply, and that in all these circumstances he thought it would be highly degrading in me to write to him again, and that the only method of treating him was to send a force against him.

11. To this I answered by denying that Mr. Russell had made any declaration to the extent stated by the Minister, and by saying that I observed no great impropriety in Appa Sahib's letter, except his affecting to make light of a very serious affair, that as there could be no doubt of the British Government's possessing the power to destroy Appa Sahib I did not think, I asked its dignity by showing every wish to preserve him. This was followed by a renewal of almost all the arguments which had been before brought forward by the Minister in the course of the whole conversation, but the Minister at last consented to hear the rest of my proposed letter, with which he seemed at the time to be perfectly satisfied. He requested that I would immediately communicate its contents to Appa Sahib's Vakeel and on being put in mind that I did not receive the Vakeel, because he had long refused to come here, he said, that his refusal was at that time entertained of Holkar's coming to the Deccan, which the Vakeel thought would prevent this Government from taking any measures against his. I then said that I did not wish the plan which I had proposed to be communicated to the Vakeel in detail, as I thought it not unlikely that Appa Sahib might perform his engagements without further difficulty if he saw operations preparing against him without knowing precisely what they were to be. To this the Minister replied by desiring me to remember the opinion which he was about to deliver, which was that Appa Sahib would never be brought to perform his engagements till the Subsidiary Force had entered his Jagir.

12. An avowal which fell from the Minister while my letter to Appa Sahib was under discussion is worth mentioning. I wished to have some principle fixed for determining the extent to which Appa Sahib was to be responsible for the expense of taking Hoobly. The Minister insisted on his defraying the charges of the troops from the time when they left Poona, and I contended that he ought only to be charged with what was incurred after they left Belgaon. With a view to establish my own position, I asked the Minister whether the troops were not intended to overawe Chintaman Rao who has been attacking the Killedar of Belgaon, in reply to which the Minister acknowledged that they were intended to enforce the claims of Government on the whole of the Southern Jagirdars.

13. The rest of our conversation turned entirely on inferior points of ordinary business, but on my notice the dilatoriness of the court in issuing some orders which I was soliciting for the Government of Bambay the Minister took occasion to complain of the delay which had taken place in the adjustment of the Peshwa's affairs in Hindustan, and of his claims on the Nizam; to which I could only reply by . . . him of the anxiety of the British Government to settle all unadjusted points as soon as an opportunity offered.

14. I have trespassed on your Excellency's attention by giving this conference at so much length, that your Excellency may be able to judge of the temper of this Court in regard to the Southern Jagirdars. It seems evidently to be the Peshwa's wish to push all his transactions with them to extremities and to seize the first opportunity of depriving them of their lands. It is to be hoped that he may be persuaded to relinquish this design, but I think he will not desist from urging all his first demands against them. This dispute with Appa Sahib is therefore now to be considered rather as the commencement of a plan for reducing the Southern Jagirdars than as a single and unconnected transaction.

15. In this view, it may perhaps be thought that the measure best adopted, as well to effect our present object without risk, as to secure the submission of the Jagirdars hereafter, would have been at once to employ the Subsidiary Force in forcing Appa Sahib to the immediate execution of his agreement.

16. Orders of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to Mr. Russell are however so explicit that I do not think myself at liberty to authorize the march of the Subsidiary Force, especially in the present case, when there is a great probability of the object of the Peshwa's Government being effected by means of His Highness's own force. But if the Highness's force should be found inadequate to reduce Hoobly, or if Appa Sahib should still refuse to adjust his accounts with the Peshwa there can be no doubt of

the propriety of moving the force, as well on the grounds of the letter of the treaty of Basseen, as of the necessity of enforcing an agreement which was exacted by the British Resident under the express instructions of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

Poona: M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 9th May 1811. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 30.—This is a covering note to a copy of Elphinstone's letter to the Vice-President in Council dated the 16th June. In this letter Elphinstone mentions the desire of the Peshwa to deprive Bapuji Ganesh Gokhla of the lands worth 18 lacs which once belonged to the Pratinidhi and which Gokla had been occupying since 1805 after the rebellion of the Pratinidhi. The interview of Gokhla with Elphinstone is also mentioned. Elphinstone's observations about the nature of Peshwa's Government are illuminating. He deprecates the idea of the Peshwa to maintain under his direct control and employ a body of troops for his own purposes and disband the army of Gokhla in consequence.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 21st June 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 3, dated the 16th instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

The Peshwa arrived here on the 8th instant from Wahee, where he had been for some time on a pilgrimage. I went out to meet him with the officers attached to the Residency, the Brigade was drawn out on the road by which His Highness entered Poona. and he was received with all the usual honours.

2. His Highness was joined at Wahee by Bapujee Ganesh Gokhla, who attended him to Poona with a party of about 1,000 Horse and 700 Infantry, the rest of his quota having been left on his Jagheer.

3. The Peshwa, I understand, intends to take this opportunity . . . . his claims on Gokhla, and if . . . . his designs no farther, they would deserve every support from the British Government.

4. The Government is already acquainted with the rebellion of the Priti Nidhi, in consequence of which his whole Jagir, the annual revenue of which is valued at 18 lacks of rupees was taken possession of by Gokhla under the Peshwa's direction. Gokla had retained the whole of this Jagheer ever since he occupied it in 1805, and has neither accounted to the Peshwa for the collections nor obeyed His Highness's frequent orders to him to make over the country to another officer.

5. The Peshwa no . . . . that the country should be surrendered and the whole revenue collected from it accounted for. Gokhla professes his readiness to obey His Highness's commands but requests that the expenses he incurred in taking possession of the country be made good to him. He states his expenses to amount to 37 lacks of rupees, and I understand, the Peshwa has offered to deposit that sum at the British Residency, to be paid to Gokla, if it shall appear, on a comparison of accounts, to be due to him. His Highness is, however, very confident that the amount of the revenue due on account of the Priti Niddhi's country will far more than cover all Gokla's demands.

6. But His Highness is by no means satisfied with the hopes of recovering all the lands and money which Gokla took possession of without his orders. A late act of disobedience on the part of that Chief has exasperated His Highness to such a degree that he has resolved to deprive him of the whole of his Serinjamy lands. It is His Highness's intention to apply the proceeds of Goklah's Jagir to the maintenance of British troops to be paid from his Jagir and commanded by officers of his own selection.

7. Gokla's services on many different occasions are well known to the Government. His contingent is the most considerable, and among the most efficient bodies of troops in the Peshwa's service. His disobedience like that of all the other Jagirdars, except two, has arisen merely from the supineness of the Government, which has long been used to treat . . . . greatest zeal for its service, and rudest usurpation of its authority with equal inattention.

8. The Peshwa's plan of maintaining an army to be paid from his treasury certainly at first sight represents many advantages, but when they are examined, none will be found to compensate for the loss of such a force as Gokla's. From the careless and indolent character that pervades every department of the Peshwa's Government, it is highly improbable that the proposed branch of the Army will ever be diligently attended to as there is no permanent fund for the payment of it, there is a great risk of its being suffered to fall into arrears. This abuse among the Natives is always accompanied with false musters and other fraudulent practices, by which the commanders of corps make up for the irregularity of their payments. The commanders being chosen from people about the Court will generally be ill-fitted for their duties, and there will be

nothing in their situation to improve their character. For these reasons although it is very desirable that the effect of a body of troops in the Peshwa's immediate service should be tried, yet the result of the experiment is so uncertain that it would be imprudent to purchase it by the sacrifice of any part of his efficient Army.

9. On this view of the Peshwa, I trust I shall meet with your Excellency's approbation in using my utmost endeavours to prevent the confiscation of Gokla's Jagir, at the same time that I inform that Chief that he will entirely lose the support of the British Government by withholding any part of the Peshwa's just claims or by omitting any service which . . . . from him to His Highness.

10. I have as yet received no communication on the subject from the Durbar, but I am informed on every good authority that the Peshwa had the measure of removing Gokla in contemplation, in which case I shall of course be officially informed of it before long.

11. Before the Peshwa set out for Wahi, he removed Sadashiv Mankeshwar the Prime Minister from the Government of the strong fort of Loghur and Esapore. His Highness is now prepared a fresh commission for the government of the Fort and district of Sholapoor at present held by the Minister. He seems not to have made up his mind on whom that government shall be conferred, but he seems resolved to take it from the Minister. If he be removed from the government of Sholapore Sadashiv Mankeshwar will still retain the large district of Saverndroog, with the fort and Ghuris included in it. He will also retain his perosnal Jagheer, and the lands which he is allowed for the maintenance of 300 Horse. It is, however, the opinion of those best acquainted with the Peshwa's character, that the Minister's influence is on the decline. Various reasons are assigned for this change in the Peshwa's disposition, of which the most serious is the detection of the Minister's misconduct in embezzling a very large portion of the treasure found in Sholapoor when that place was taken by the Peshwa about four years ago.

12. No measures for leaving Hoobly have been agitated for some time. The troops of Savanoor are still employed in reducing a refractory Dessai in that province. When they shall have completed that service, they will probably be ordered against Hoobly, and reinforced by troops from Belgaon.

13. The Peshwa has completed his new levies to 1,500 Horse, 1,000 Foot, half of this force has been sent to Copergaum to assist in protecting the country from the Pindaries, and half is stationed to the southward, at Belgaon and in the Pergunnah of Adoor.

14. Soon after I received the orders conveyed in Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's letter, dated the 9th February, I took an opportunity of requesting to be furnished with a list of the districts and villages

occupied by the Southern Jagirdars without authority, and a statement of all the Peshwa's claims against those Chiefs. Two months have since elapsed, but although no application could be more welcome to the Peshwa's Government, and though I have reminded the Ministers of it almost every day, I have not yet been able to procure the information I require.

15. I have had frequent communications with the Durbar since my last dispatch, but there are only two points which deserve to be reported to your Excellency.

16. The first is a claim of the Peshwa's to a number of guns which Amrut Rao took from the Peshwa's Arsenal while Holkar was in possession of Poona, and which he afterwards deposited at Ahmednagar. In reply to this demand, I stated that since Amrut Rao's flight from Poona an ordinary agreement had been entered into between him and the Peshwa in which there was no stipulation for the recovery of property carried off from Poona, that the Peshwa had allowed eight years to pass without advancing any claims of the kind and could not expect that they now be admitted, that the guns had been deposited by Amrut Rao with the Officer Commanding at Ahmednagar and that I had no right to order them to be given up to the Peshwa without Amrut Rao's consent. The Peshwa's Minister said in answer that the Peshwa was very anxious to have the guns on any terms and begged me to state the claim to your Excellency, that in case you took the same view of the subject I did, you might use your influence with Amrut Rao to procure the restitution of the guns. In compliance with the Minister's repeated solicitations, I agreed to report what he had said to your Excellency but acquainted him that I had no hopes of the success of his application.

17. The other point which I have to notice relates to a complaint of the Peshwa's against Sindhia for levying contributions on His Highness's territories in Hindustan, which form a part of the Jagir of the Vinchoor Chief, and for permitting his Pindaries to carry on very serious depredations in Khandesh. The substance of these complaints will appear in my letter to the Resident with Sindhia, which I shall have the honour to forward for your Excellency's notice.

18. I have received another letter from Holkar, in which he begs me to use my influence with the Peshwa to procure Khillat for investure for his son, but makes no mention of his journey to Jejoory. I shall do myself the honour to forward a translation of it, and of my reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona:
The 16th June 1811.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

P. S.—

June 17th.

Since I wrote the above, I have received a visit from Gokhla who came in great state to the Residency. When the usual compliments on our meeting, after so long an interval had past, Gokhla requested me to retire with him into a private apartment, where he spoke for some time of his attachment to the British and of the many occasions on which he had served along with our Armies. He also produced a very honorable testimony to his merit and service under the signature of Lord Wellington. He then stated that notwithstanding the numerous proofs he had given of zeal and fidelity, the Peshwa had been persuaded by some of his enemies to withdraw his countenance from him. He said he was convinced His Highness had the most gracious dispositions towards him, and that he was at a loss to guess what grounds his enemies could have taken to induce His Highness to diminish the favour with which he formerly distinguished him. He concluded by saying that he had always depended on the British Government, and trusted its influence would be exerted in his behalf, at the same time he declared himself perfectly ready to obey any orders the Peshwa might think proper to issue.

After expressing my disappointment at finding that Gokhla's long commerce with the English had not taught him to carry on business with perfect openness, I told him I thought the Peshwa had very good and very obvious reasons for his dissatisfaction, and proceeded to remark in terms of much disapprobation and regret on Gokhla's usurpation of the Prati Nidhi's Jagir, and on the . . . . acts of disobedience of which he had been guilty. I told him that the Peshwa was seriously displeased with him, and that although the British Government remembered his services and was sincerely desirous of his welfare yet could not make any exertions in his favour as long as he gave the Peshwa just grounds of complaint. That I was happy to hear him profess so much readiness to conform to the Peshwa's orders and that, if he was really sincere in those professions, he might depend on my using every means in my power to reconcile him to his Master. Gokhla said that he did not mean to practise any concealment, but that as the Peshwa had not mentioned the causes of his displeasure, it was impossible for him to discover them except by conjecture. He then most . . . . repeated his assurances of entire obedience to the Peshwa, and said, if His Highness required him to give up his lands and quit the service, he would do it without demur. He begged me to speak favourably of him to the Peshwa, and to take occasion to mention the many battles he had fought for His Highness's service. I said that as I believed him to be sincere in his promises of future good conduct he might rely on my cordial and zealous support, but I warned him that the continuance of the protection of the British Government must depend on his own fidelity to his master, and I added that it was incumbent on him to further my recommendations of him, by adopting the line of conduct best calculated to conciliate the Peshwa's regard, and that it would be in vain to expect any advantage from recounting his services in former times, if he did not continue to afford them according to his own duty, and the exigencies of the State. Gokhla after repeated protestations that he would obey the Peshwa, and be guided in everything by me, returned to the public apartment and soon after took his leave.

The result of this conversation with Gokhla is very satisfactory, as far as it goes. I have no doubt that he is sincere in the essential parts of his promise and I hope that his ready submission may induce the Peshwa to treat him with less rigour than he at first intended; but I still suppose that Gokhla will endeavour to retain as much of his acquisitions as he can without rupture and that the Peshwa's fondness for his plan of having his whole army under his own immediate control will occasion him to give up his designs against Gokhla with some reluctance.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 31.—This is a covering note to a copy of Elphinstone's letter to the Vice-President of the Council, dated 20th June 1811. In this letter Elphinstone mentions the discussions he had with the Peshwa regarding Gokhla's usurpations and disobedience. He also mentions what Balaji Gokhla, Bapuji Ganesh's uncle, had told him about the readiness of his nephew to return all the lands of the Pratinidhi and to obey orders of the Peshwa. Jeswant Rao Holkar had desired a Khillat from the Peshwa, for which he had written to him.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT PPOONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 23rd June 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 4, dated the 20th instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL.

HON'BLE SIR,

On the day after I closed my dispatch to your Excellency I waited on the Peshwa at His Highness's desire.

2. His Highness soon opened the business of my visit by asking what passed between Gokhla and me on the 16th.

3. I recapitulated the substance of that conversation as reported to your Excellency, and added that Gokhla was much distressed by His Highness's having refused to admit him to his presence on the preceding day the 15th.

4. The Peshwa replied by a forcible statement of all the acts of disobedience of which Gokhla had been guilty and ended by saying that if Gokhla was hurt by His Highness's declining his visit in the presence of one or two witnesses, he might concert what His Highness's feelings were on a late occasion when Gokhla degraded him in the presence of all his subjects by refusing to permit his Government to enter the fort of Purechetgur.

5. This alluded to a fort of his Priti Nidhi's which continued to hold out till very lately. The Garrison were willing to have surrendered to the Peshwa, and His Highness sent a body of troops to take possession of the place, but Gokhla, who was besieging at the time, refused on various pretences to admit them, and at last prevailed on the Garrison to give up the fort to him.

6. It was impossible for . . . . in such circumstances, I accordingly admitted the extreme impropriety of his . . . . but urged his former services, his readiness to give up all his usurpations and his promise of strict obedience in future.

7. On this the Peshwa said that Gokhla was apt to overrate his services, the principal of which had been performed while General Wellesley was in the Deccan and when His Highness stood in no need of Gokhla's aid. His professions His Highness said, were very dutiful, but they were only professions and he wished to hear what more substantial proofs of his obedience Gokhla proposed to afford.

8. I said it was for His Highness to say what he wished Gokhla to do, and the Peshwa replied that he wished him to give up the Priti Nidhi's country, and to account for the revenue. His Highness also said that the power of the Jagirdars was become exorbitant, and that he had it in contemplation to lessen the force attached to them, and to increase his own. He said that when I came to require Gokhla to give up the Priti Nidhi's Jagirs I should soon find from his bringing forward counter-demands, and from his starting difficulties, that his professions had been, from the first, insincere.

9. I answered that His Highness's demands regarding the Priti Nidhi's lands were very reasonable, and that I should mention them to Gokhla that I could not answer for his sincerity, but that I believed he was seriously disposed to adopt such measures as would restore him to His Highness's favour.

10. To this the Peshwa said that if Gokhla agreed to his demands, it was well but that His Highness did not wish to be referred to during the discussions, as he would not trust his temper

in such an altercation and that if I failed in persuading Gokhla to perform what was demanded of him, His Highness hoped I would never mention his name again but allow His Highness to take his own measure to chastize him.

11. I said I should with much pleasure undertake the business His Highness proposed to me. That I should inform Gokhla of His Highness's wishes and would communicate his reply, which I hope would be satisfactory. I did not enter into the discussion of His Highness's plan of reducing the quotas of the Jaghirdars, merely observing that I should have a good deal to say on that subject if ever His Highness took it into his serious considerations, but that at present I would recommend his proceedings to settle the points of difference between him and Gokhla.

12. After the subject of Gokhla had been settled, the Peshwa complained of the conduct of Rastiah in withholding the fort and district of Badawmy after the Peshwa had agreed to waive his claim to the revenue for many years, and had been advanced the sum of 2,50,000 rupees on condition of that country's being restored to him. I was happy to have this opportunity of pressing the Ministers for the information required in Mr. Edmonstone's letter of the 9th February, and accordingly observed that I should be better able to understand the differences between His Highness and the southern Jagirdars, when I had received the statement of his claims on them which I had so long before requested. The Peshwa undertook with great alacrity to furnish the statement I desired, and I shall now I suppose receive it without much more delay.

13. During the whole of this interview, the Peshwa spoke himself directly, and appeared to take a very lively interest in the subjects of the conversation.

14. After I had withdrawn Bapoo Chitnavis, a confidential servant of Amrut Rao, was presented to the Peshwa by a person on my part, and was received with much civility.

15. I yesterday sent for Balajee Gokhla who is uncle to the Jagirdar and generally transacts his business at the Residency. I informed him of the Peshwa's demands, and used every means of impressing on him the necessity of his nephew's satisfying the Peshwa's just claims and the policy of endeavouring by all means to recover His Highness's confidence. I assured him of my anxiety for his welfare, and said that I shall have no pains to reconcile the Peshwa to him but I said that I expected to have some trouble in satisfying His Highness even if his demands were now complied with, and that I could not answer for the consequences if any opposition was experienced on Gokhla's part. Balajee Gokhla said, he would report what I had said to his nephew, and acquaint me with his answer.

16. Balajee Gokhla came to me this morning with Gokhla's answer, the substance of which was that he was ready to give the Peshwa orders of surrender for all the forts in the Priti Nidhi's country without delay. That he had no claims at all on His Highness, and that if His Highness had any on him, he was ready to account to him for everything he had received. That the Peshwa had promised to allot a country worth two lacks and twenty five thousand rupees of the Priti Nidhi's Jagir to the support of that Chief and four lacks to complete the Jagir ordinarily settled for Gokhla. That he of course hoped that the Peshwa would adhere to this arrangement but that he would submit to whatever the Peshwa might determine.

17. I expressed myself much satisfied with Gokhla's conduct on this occasion. I observed, I should have less difficluty in settling the remaining points, if Gokhla would enable me to present the orders of surrender to His Highness at the same time that I communicated his answer, and said that I should wait on the Peshwa tomorrow for that purpose.

18. Balajee Gokhla replied that it was impossible for me to see the Peshwa till tomorrow, and that he wished his nephew's answer to be communicated without delay. He, therefore, begged me to send to the Minister and acquaint him with what had past. I made another attempt to procure the orders at once, but without success. Balajee, however, solemnly assured me that they should be forthcoming as soon as the Peshwa ordered them to be received.

19. I shall send Khursetjee, the public accountant of the Residency, to the Minister, as soon as he is at leisure to see him, and shall instruct him to communicate Gokhla's proposals, and to request the Minister to draw up the Peshwa's demands in such a manner as may facilitate the adjustment of the accounts. Great difficulties will probably arise in this branch of the affairs, as the sum to which the Peshwa pretends is near a crore of rupees. I shall, however, do everything in my power to prevent the arrangement breaking off on that head, and shall, at all events, endeavour, in the first place, to obtain the orders of surrender for the forts from Gokhla.

20. I shall take the opportunity of my message to the Minister to mention that I have received another letter from Holkar, respecting his Khillat, and that his urgency makes the matter of sufficient importance to induce me to write to your Excellency for orders. I shall desire Khursetjee to take occasion to lay down the principles established in Mr. Edmonstone's dispatch of the 31st of May respecting the Peshwa's relation to the former great feudatories of the Maratha Empire.

Poona :
The 20th June 1811.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 32.—This is a covering note to a copy of Elphinstone's letter to the Vice-President of the Council dated 23rd June 1811. In this letter Elephinstone recounts the details of his interviews with Balaji Gokhla and the Peshwa and how ultimately Gokhla's affairs were settled. Bapuji Gokhla was admitted to the Durbar by the Peshwa and promised to surrender 25 forts and all the lands of the Pratinidhi. Its effect on the Southern Jagirdars was likely to be salutary, Elphinstone remarks.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 27th June 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my last address No. 5, dated the 23rd instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNSIL, FORT WILLIAM.

HON'BLE SIR,

After my interview with Balajee Gokhla, which I reported to your Excellency in my last dispatch, I sent Khursetjee, my Parsee Accountant, to communicate the substance of our conversation to the Minister, with such remarks as I thought it necessary to add, and to endevour to remove the difficulties which stood in the way of the adjustment of Gokhla's affairs from the unsettled accounts between him and the Peshwa. When my message had been delivered, the Minister said that the Peshwa requested me to wait on him that evening the 21st, when His Highness would communicate his final decision on the whole affairs.

2. Khursetjee discovered from the Minister's conversation that the Peshwa would be inclined to waive the discussion of the accounts, but would adhere to his favourite scheme of reducing Gokhla's Jagair. His Highness, it appeared, had given up all thoughts of dismissing Gokhla, but had determined to refuse the four lacks of rupees a year, for which lands were to be assigned from the Prati Nidhi's country.

3. On receiving this information, I sent for Balajee Gokhla and told him that the Peshwa had desired my attendance in the evening for this final settlement of Gokhla's affairs, that I thought His Highness would probably insist either on having an account of the money collected by Gokhla or on retaining the lands which he had promised to allot to that Chief, and I desired to know which of those arrangements would be the most agreeable to him.

4. Belajee Gokhla's chief anxiety was as I expected, to prevent his nephew's being called on to account for the money but he said that the Peshwa had promised the lands, and that His Highness would probably not be inclined to recede from his agreement.

5. I admitted the Peshwa's promise, but reminded him that Gokhla had at the same time engaged to deliver over the whole of the Priti Nidhi's countary within one year, but he had kept it for upwards of five years, and consequently could not expect the Peshwa to stand to an arrangement which he had himself overturned. I said that in truth, the Peshwa's right both to withhold the lands and to make to Gokhla refund was indisputable; that the British Government had admitted His Highness's claim to the revenue embezzled in a similar manner by Appa Sahib and could not refuse to allow the same to Gokhla's case; that however the British Government might be inclined to serve Gokhla, it could not reject the Peshwa's just demands; that if His Highness insisted on his full rights on both points they must be enforced, and that it would not be expected he should give up more than one of them; that I was willing to try to persuade the Peshwa to waive that which was most hurtful to Gokhla, although . . . by no means answer for the success of my endeavours. Balajee Gokhla appeared to be a good deal alarmed by the preceding statement, of which he fully admitted the justice. He seemed still to think the primary settlement the most formidable of the Peshwa's demands, but he earnestly entreated me to put off my visit to the Peshwa for that evening, that he might have due opportunity of learning Bapoojee Gokhla's sentiments on the question I had proposed to him.

6. I agreed to this proposal after alluding to the Peshwa's intended journey to Pandharpore and pointing out the impossibility of my admitting of any longer delay. I acordingly sent an apology to the Peshwa, and begged that he would allow me to defer my visit till the next day.

7. On the morning of the 22nd Balajee Gokhla came to me again and said that his nephew begged as a most particular favour that I would defer waiting on the Peshwa for one day longer, as it was of the last consequence to him to see the Minister before his affair was finally discussed. Balajee said that no inconvenience would result from this delay, as the Peshwa's departure was postponed till the 24th.

8. As Balajee Gokhla could give no satisfactory answer to my repeated questions as to his nephew's business with the Minister, I conjectured that his object was to secure Mankeshwar's assistance by a bribe. This mode of action, at all times so objectionable, appeared to me to be particularly so in the present instance. The way of extricating Gokhla from his embarrassment best suited to Mankeshwar's interest, and probably the only one within his reach would be, to persuade the Peshwa to take the settlement of

the claims of Gokhla lie over for the present. He would thus afford a temporary relief to Gokhla while he will retain the power of extorting further bribing on him, by threatening from time to time to revive the peshwa's claim, a course of proceeding which would probably in time drive . . . to despair, and would end in . . . . I therefore, without mentioning . . . . suspicious told Balajee that I could see no advantage in his nephew's conferring with the Minister and, at all events, it would neither be respectful nor even just to the Peshwa to . . . . the dispatch of His Highness's business for Gokhla's convenience.

9. Balajee endevoured for some time to persuade me to consent to his proposal, but when he found it was in vain, he said he entirely agreed in my opinion of the impolicy of Gokhla's going to the Minister, but said it was a plan on which his nephew was much bent.

10. In the evening I went to the Durbar, where the Peshwa soon after arrived. I repeated to him the substance of the message I had sent to the Minister, and His Highness, to my great satisfaction, declared that he thought the settlement of the accounts would be a matter for much difficulty and that if they were to compel Gokhla to pay all that was due from him, his Government might not gain much in the end, that he had therefore resolved to give up his pecuniary claims if Gokhla would make no demands on him; but His Highness said, he found the greater his jagirdars were, the more difficult they were to manage, and that though he allowed, he had promised, Gokhla to give him a share of the Priti Nidhi's country worth four lacks of rupees, Gokhla's conduct had since led him to alter his mind and it was now his intention to retain the whole. I expressed great approbation of the Peshwa's resolution respecting his pecuniary claims, and then observed that if His Highness were bound by a promise to give Gokhla the country in question, I should certainly take the liberty of advising him to do so at all events . . . . Gokhla had failed, in the conditions on which the promise was made I am clearly of opinion that His Highness was entirely at liberty to adhere to . . . . not as he thought proper. . . . . I said, for His Highness to . . . . it was not advisable, on grounds of expendiency, to confer on Gokhla the proposed addition to his Jagir. . . . . discussion took place on this subject in which I said that it was polite to pay Gokhla's efficient force and at the same time, to have some punishment short of absolute destruction, in reserve . . . . disobedience on his part. That as His Highness had it in contemplation to recover the territory which had been usurped by the Southern Jagirdars it was particularly necessary to retain the attachment of so powerful a Chieftain and further that if those Jagirdars saw Gokhla's own lands diminished at the same time that those which he had usurped from the Peshaw were recovered, they would become desperate from the expectation of similar treatment, and would resist His Highness's most moderate demands.

11. The Peshwa, on his answer admitted that those considerations were entitled to great weight, and said that he would allow the lands of the Priti Nidhi's Jagir to remain as they were till his return from Pandharpore when they should be disposed of as I should advise. In the mean time, His Highness desired that Gokhla might reliver orders of release for all the forts in his possession to the Minister. I begged that Gokhla might be allowed to deliver the orders in person to the Peshwa, and that His Highness would now be pleased to show him the same kindness with which he had formerly honoured him.

12. The Peshwa agreed to Gokhla's coming and said, he had now no reason to be dissatified with him, and would certainly make the alteration of his sentiment appear in his conduct.

13. After I left the Peshwa, I sent a message to Gokhla, acquainting him with what had passed and . . . . that he would deliver the orders and . . . in the mode agreed on. I also told him that if there was any failure on his part either in the time of delivering the orders, or in the directions they contained, I shall consider him to have . . . . . his word with me, and would . . . . further concern in his affairs.

14. Gokhala accordingly waited on the Peshwa yesterday evening and presented the orders of surrender of twenty-five forts, seventeen of which are hill forts, to the Peshwa. His Highness declined receiving them, because the hour was unluckly, and desired Gokhla to deliver them to the Minister on this morning. No transaction with a Maratha Chieftain can be considered as closed until every part of it has been carried into execution, but from Gokhla's character and from his conduct throughout the discussion, I have little doubt that the forts will be delivered over in due course. The Peshwa and his Ministers have no doubts on the subject, and I trust no further difficulties or delays will be experienced.

15. I hope the terms on which this adjustment has been made will meet with your Excellency's approbation. It may be considered as a great step towards a general arrangement with the Southern Jagirdars, both from its removing all grounds of dispute with the most powerful of them, and from the effect which his example will have on the rest. The facility with which it has been effected is chiefly owing to the hopes which the Peshwa entertains of a speedy settlement of his claims on the Jagirdars, by which he is led to take more enlarged views than would present themselves to him in a dispute with any single Chief. Gokhla's compliance must in part be attributed to his connection with the English and to his being better disposed towards the Peshwa's Government than the other Jagirdars, but it must also be ascribed in a great measure to the effects of the decided tone which Mr. Russell assumed in his negotiations with Appa Sahib Patwardhan.

16. By means of the present arrangement, besides the additional strength derived from the possession of the Prati Nidhi's forts, the Peshwa secures the disposal of an annual revenue which he estimates at 18 lacks of rupees. His Highness will not feel the sacrifice of the money embezzled by Gokhla, as it was derived from a source of which His Highness never possessed the control. It appeared to me extremely judicious in His Highness to waive the discussion of this point, which would have deeply affected Gokhla. The examination of the accounts must have put off the final adjustment for an indefinite period, and from the complexity of the business and the unreasonableness of both parties would, in all probability, have led to further disagreement. Gokhale, on the other hand, has no reason to complain, he had no claim either to the Prati Nidhi's country or to the collections he had already made and the whole of the advantage he has acquired from them must be counted as clear gain.

17. The disposal of the Priti Nidhi's Jagheer lies over, as I have already stated. It will, however, depend entirely on the Peshwa who will be in possession of all the strong places in the country. The reasons which I stated in my conversation with the Peshwa, and a consideration of the advantages which serinjamy troops are stated in my dispatch No. 3 to possess over those paid from the Treasury, appear to me to render it desirable that Gokhla should receive the Jagheer which was promised him. His allowance is rated as eleven lacks of rupees a year, of which the Jagheer already allotted to him is supposed to pay seven, and the balance is paid him in cash. The real value of his Jagheer is, however, only five lacks, and to this allowance he would permanently be reduced by the plans which the Peshwa first proposed.

18. His Highness will, I hope, see the propriety of completing his Jagheers when the intended settlement of the Priti Nidhi's country take effect and the grant will be made with much greater propriety after the Peshwa's demands have been satisfied, than during the discussion. If the addition be granted to Gokhla, it will be proper that he should be explicitly informed that it will be resumed on the first occasion when his contingent fails to appear on any service that the Peshwa may prescribe.

19. At Khursetjee's visit to the Minister, alluded to in the beginning of this dispatch, he delivered the . . . . . regarding Holkar's Khillat, which I mentioned in my dispatch No. 4. It was in substance the same with my letter to Holkar of which I had the honour to forward a translation through the Chief Secretary to the Government, and stated in the clearest terms the view which your Excellency takes of Holkar's relation to this Government. The Minister assented to the whole of the message and said that the Peshwa would take no step regarding the Khillat which Holkar solicited till he should be informed of your Excellency's wishes.

The Peshwa will set off tomorrow morning for Pandharpore and intends to be absent for a month.

Poona : M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 23rd June 1811. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 33.—This is a covering note to a copy of Edmonstone's letter to M. Elphinstone dated 2nd August containing the views of British Government about the Peshwa's claim of Chouth on the Nizam, and the manner it should be adjusted, and about the tribute that the Rajah of Sholapur paid to the Peshwa. The letter indicates an attitude of impatience on the part of the Peshwa to realize the Chouth from the Nizam and even if it came to that, by force of arms. The enclosure No. 2 is also important.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 2nd August 1811.

I am directed by His Excellency the Vice-President in Council to transmit, for your information, the accompanying copies of my letters of this date to the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad.

To—THE HON'BLE M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 10th ultimo enclosing a copy of your reply to the letter of the Resident at Hyderabad to your address of the 23rd of June on the subject of an attempt on the part of the Peshwa's Government to levy Chouth from the Nizam's dominions by force of arms, and of the intention of the Peshwa's Minister to dispatch body of troops for the purpose of realizing the Peshwa's claims on the Rajah of Sholapur, and to communicate to you the following observations on those subjects.

2. With regard to the general question of claims on account of Chouth His Excellency the Vice-President in Council is sensible of the embarrassments arising from the delay, which circumstances not necessary to be detailed, have occasioned in undertaking the arbitration prescribed by the treaties of Hyderabad and Bassein, and His Excellency in Council has now resolved to adopt an arrangement calculated to afford the most effectual means of investigating and adjusting those intricate and long depending claims. This will form the subject of a further early communication to you and the Resident at Hyderabad. At the present moment I am directed to signify to you that His Excellency in Council is disposed to concur in the observation stated in Mr. Russell's letter to your address of the 23rd of June, that the Peshwa's Government and

servants ought not, under the third clause of the 13th article of the Treaty of Bassein, to send bodies of troops to range the Nizam's country without having at least attempted in the first instance to obtain satisfaction of their claims by an amicable representation through us to the Durbar of Hyderabad.

3. His Excellency in Council is aware at the same time that the Nizam's total exemption from the payment of Chouth is a point which the British Government stands bound to arbitrate, and that consequently no current claims to Chouth can properly be a subject of final adjustment independantly of that general and comprehensive question; but it is obvious that under the Peshwa's formal acquiescence in that arbitration, which might totally abrogate his claim to Chouth, the justice of his current demands being only eventual they ought not to be enforced even by the intervention of the British power much less by the Peshwa's troops previously to the general adjustment, unless having been referred in the manner described by Mr. Russell, circumstances should admit of an award in favour of the Peshwa pending the investigation of the general claims and this remark applies to the observation contained in your letter, that the Peshwa loses a considerable revenue annually by the present arrangement as till the treaty of Bassein it was always the practice of His Highness's Government to levy the Chouth by force even in time of peace without opposition on the part of the Nizam. Far from and after the date of the Treaty of Bassein the claim of the Peshwa to any portion of current Chouth was a question for decision and he cannot conclusively be said to incur an annual loss of a revenue, his title to which is undetermined and which his consent to our arbitrating the Nizam's total exemption of itself implied an inclination to resign it, if the result of an enquiry into the various complicated engagements concluded between him and the late Nizam should appear to the British Government to support the claim to an absolute abrogation of the Chouth.

4. Government is aware that there is little encouragement to hope either that the Nizam's claim to exemption will be found to be supported by any of the stipulations of these engagements or that in the case of its not being so supported, the exemption can be effected by compromise, but while the question is declared and admitted to be in suspense, the Peshwa cannot maintain a positive right to the exaction of Chouth.

5. Under every view of the subject therefore the employment of troops for that purpose seems inadmissible, so long as we profess a resolution to undertake the arbitration of his demands, but as the alternative of his forbearance, the Peshwa has undoubtedly a right to expect the interference of the British Government for the adjustment of these long depending claims. It follows therefore that without professing to undertake the stipulated arbitration, or at least to mediate the adjustment of those specific demands which the Peshwa has recently attempted to realize by force of

arms, we are not entitled to require his Highness to obtain from the employment of force, and it may be added that the Nizam cannot justly claim the exertion of our influence in restraining the Peshwa from the forcible exaction of Chouth according to ancient practice, without being prepared to submit to our award, or observation which the Resident at Hyderabad will be directed to convey to the Ministers because any possible adjustment of the mutual claims of the two Governments must it is supposed be unfavourable to the Nizam.

6. With respect to the second point to which your letter refers, viz., the right of the Peshwa to levy the tribute of Sholapore by force of Army, it is difficult to form a decisive judgment without more information than the records of Government afford regarding the condition of that petty chiefship relatively to the Nizam and the Peshwa. The records, however, as far as they throw any light on the subject, tend to support Mr. Russell's observation (contained in his letter to your address of the 23rd of June) that the arrangements of the Sholapore country have always been made at Hyderabad without any participation whatever on the part of the Poona Durbar. This will appear from a reference to the correspondence of the Resident at Hyderabad on the subject of the expedition undertaken by that Government in 1802 aided by a detachment of the Subsidiary Force against the Rajah of Sholapore. That correspondence shows a peculiar degree of connection between the state of Hyderabad and Sholapore and an admitted supremacy and control on the part of the former over the latter, with respect to internal arrangements instanced especially at the death of the Rajah when the temporary Government of the district was arranged by the authority of the Durbar of Hyderabad, without any reference to that of Poona. It would seem also that the Rajah of Sholapore held lands in form of the Government of Hyderabad and that a corps of Sebandies in the service of the Nizam was placed with the Rajah and subsidized by him, and in the accounts brought forward on that occasion, for the adjustment of the Nizam's demands the share of the Peshwa is stated only at one-fourth, and at an amount greatly inferior to the annual tribute payable to the Nizam; a circumstance which tends to invalidate the fact alleged by the Poona Durbar as described in the 2nd paragraph of your letter to Mr. Russell of the 7th ultimo. It appears indeed from the statement of the Peshwa's claims transmitted by Colonel Close with his letter of the 10th of May 1806 that the sum annually payable to the Peshwa from Sholapore was 85,000 rupees whereas the tribute payable to the Nizam amounted to 1,45,000 rupees.

7. In the course of the long term of years during which the Peshwa has derived a tribute or a Chouth from Sholapore, it is not alleged by the Poona Minister that the Peshwa's troops have ever been employed to collect it, a negative precedent, which certainly as far as it goes is adverse to the Peshwa's present asserted right of sending troops. The arrears of that tribute moreover

actually form part of the claims of the Peshwa against the state of Hyderabad as appears by the statements transmitted by Colonel Close with his letter of the 10th of May 1806 abovementioned, whence it may be inferred that the Peshwa did not claim the privilege of enforcing payment by means of his own troops, and that be recognized the extent of the dependant relation of Sholapore towards Hydrabad, asserted by the Nizam's Ministers.

8. It must be allowed indeed that the Peshwa is entitled to some security for the discharge of the acknowledged tribute, and if he is withheld from enforcing it by his troops it must be guaranteed to him by the Nizam. It is for His Highness to consider how far his interest suggests his incurring this responsibility by opposing the Peshwa's prosecution of the means within his own power of enforcing his demands on the Rajah of Sholapore.

9. With reference to Mr. Russell's supposition stated in his letter to your address of the 23rd of June, that the Peshwa's claims upon Sholapore stand exactly upon the same ground as his claims upon any other part of the Nizam's country and ought to be levied therefore under the same restrictions, it may not be useless to observe that on the statements mentioned, the demand upon the tributary poligars among among the Chiefs of Sholapore and Gudwall are classed, are treated as distinct from the Peshwas Chouth claim.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

Chief Secretary to Government.

FORT WILLIAM:

The 2nd August 1811.

To—H. RUSSELL, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you for your information and guidance the enclosed copy of my letter of this date to the Resident at Poona, having reference to his late correspondence with you on the subject of the Peshwa's employment of his troops for the exaction of Chouth on the territories of the Nizam and for the realization of his demands on the chiefship of Sholapore.

2. The contents of that document preclude the necessity of any additional instructions on the subjects of it, excepting only the expression of the desire of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council to know the temper and disposition of the Durbar of Hyderabad with respect to the arbitration of the claims of the Peshwa on the Nizam now proposed to be undertaken. This will of course appear from the result of the communication which agreeably to the intimation contained in the 5th paragraph of my letter to the Resident at Poona you will convey to the Nizam's Ministers.

3. You will be pleased to submit to Government any remarks or communications which the contents of that letter may suggest to you to be advisable in the same manner as if it had been addressed to you.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort William:
The 2nd August 1811.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 34.—This is a covering note to a copy of Elphinstone's letter to the Vice-President in Council dated 18th August. In this letter Elphinstone mentions that he took exception to the proposed transfer of Garra Kota by the Sindhia to the Peshwa without his knowledge. He pointed out to the Minister of the Peshwa that it was tantamount to an infringement of the Treaty of Bassein. On this the Minister acknowledged his mistake. Other matters like the precautions to be taken against the Pindaries and the surrender of the forts by Gokhla are also referred to.

From—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 23rd August 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of my address No. 7, of the 18th instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

To—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hon'ble Sir,

Some time ago, I received a message from the Peshwa informing me that Sindhia had offered to make over the territory of Garrah Kota to His Highness. I observed on this communication that I doubted whether Sindhia had any such intention as he had professed, but that I would at all events recommend to His Highness not to accept his proposal.

2. About a week ago, I received another message from the Durbar informing me that the Peshwa had again received letters from Balajee Kunjur, his Vakeel at Sindhia's Court, in which Sindhia's offers with respect to Garra Kota were renewed, and it was stated that Sindhia was ready to make over the country to the Peshwa's officers as soon as he should receive His Highness's orders

to that effect. I was also informed that His Highness was accordingly preparing orders, directing Sindhia to make over the country to Balajee Kunjur. In reply to this message, I expressed my decided opinion against the step which His Highness was about to take and pointed out the disadvantage of a measure by which His Highness would at best only obtain the nominal possession of a small tract of country at the expense of exposing himself to complaints from all the other claimants.

3. A few days after, I was informed that the Peshwa had actually dispatched the orders to Sindhia's Durbar. I still considered this a matter of not great importance, as I was convinced that Sindhia would not make over Garrah Kota to the Peshwa without some equivalent which His Highness would not be disposed to give; but as this was the first occasion since my arrival, on which the Durbar had attempted to make any alteration in its foreign policy contrary to my advice, I thought it necessary that it should not pass without notice, and I therefore waited on the Minister for the purpose of addressing to him a serious remonstrance on his neglect of one of the most important articles of the Treaty of Bassein.

4. I began by requesting the Minister to inform me what steps he had taken in the affair of Garrah Kota, on which he entered into a long argument to prove the Peshwa's title to that territory. He said that the country belonged in sovereignty to the Peshwa, and was held by the Rajah under the Poona Government. That the Rajah had joined Meer Khan when that chief was the Peshwa's enemy, and had invaded that part of the Peshwa's dominions which formed the territory of the Rajah of Berar. That the Peshwa's Army under Dowlat Rao Sindhia had accordingly dispossessed him of his country, which of course reverted to the Government of Poona.

5. I thought it necessary to answer every one of these extraordinary positions. I observed that I understood the Rajah of Garrah Kota to have been tributary to the Maratta State at some former period, but that I never had heard that his country belonged to the Peshwa. That whatever might have been the state of things formerly, the Rajah of Berar had for many years, exercised an independent authority and was no more entitled to claim the Peshwa's assistance, than he was bound to yield him obedience. That Meer Khan's project for overturning the established order of the Deccan gave the Peshwa a just ground of war with him, and that if the Rajah of Garrah Kota had assisted Meer Khan in those unjustifiable schemes, His Highness might have had a right to go to war with him also; but that Meer Khan's progress having been checked, and the former relations between that Chief and the allies having been restored, it must be very doubtful how far the Peshwa was justified in occupying the territory of a third power on the ground of its being in alliance with Meer Khan. As to Sindhia's war with Garrah Kota, it did not at all affect the Peshwa's relations

to that Government since whatever might be the language of this Court, it was evident that Sindhia was an independent sovereign, in whose quarrels, whether just or unjust, His Highness the Peshwa had no concern.

6. The Minister replied that Garrah Kota owed Chouth to the Peshwa in common with all the rest of India, and that the Peshwa had at all times a right to dispossess his tributaries in case of their rebellion. To this I answered that the very extent of the claim to Chouth was sufficient to show the inutility of preferring it, and that if the Minister would reflect on the length of time that had past since that claim was acted on in those remote countries, and the numerous transactions that had since taken place, he would certainly find grounds for doubting of the justice as well as of the expediency of advancing it now. I then observed that the Minister would best consult his master's interest, if he would cease to act on these antiquated claims; that all the great sovereigns in the world, including the King of Great Britain, had at times given up portions of their ancient rights and dominions without suffering any diminution of their reputation, and that it would be wiser for the Peshwa to relinquish some of his claims than to expose his dignity by interfering with countries which he could neither occupy nor protect.

7. I then proceeded to observe that if the Peshwa's claim to Garrah Kota was undoubted His Highness's receiving it from Sindhia was a transaction of some importance with a foreign state; that in such circumstances I had expected some attention to have been paid to my sentiments officially communicated and that it was not without surprise that I heard that the Minister had judged it proper to adopt a measure against which I had given a decided opinion; that if he was not convinced by my arguments he ought to have allowed me to state them to the Peshwa and if I had the misfortune to differ entirely from His Highness the subject ought to have been referred to your Excellency; but that nothing could justify the Minister in making a communication to a foreign state without previously obtaining the concurrence of the British Government.

8. The Minister replied by protestations that nothing was further from his thoughts than to enter on a line of conduct which would give the British Government so just a ground of offence. He went on to assure me, most solemnly, that he never had adopted, and never would adopt, any measure of foreign policy, which I should disapprove. After he had spoken for some time in general terms I begged him to explain the fact of his having issued orders respecting Garrah Kota after I had so strongly represented the inexpediency of his doing so. The Minister declared that there must have been some mistake, as he had conceived that I had entirely approved of his issuing those orders, on which I said that I had only to hope that he would take care that no such mistake might take place again, and that he would endeavour to prevent any inconvenience arising from the present one.

9. After assuring me that he would be careful to do so, the Minister asked me what was to be done with Garrah Kota. He said it was the Peshwa's country, that the Rajah was dead, and had probably left no heirs, and he wished to know what was to become of the territory. I said that as Garrah Kota was remote and not likely to be very productive, I would advise the Peshwa not to interfere with it. I pointed out the loss of dignity which the Peshwa would suffer, if Sindhia should after all refuse to give it up, and the danger in case His Highness got possession of it, that either the people of the country, or the Rajah of Berar, should attempt to wrest it from him.

10. The Minister told me I need be under no apprehensions on that head as Sindhia was certainly sincere and the Rajah of Berar had written a letter to the Peshwa acknowledging that Garrah Kota belonged to His Highness and promising to abstain from all attacks on it. He produced this last letter and read part of it, which was to the effect he had stated. I endeavoured to dissuade the Minister from trusting too much to the promises of Sindhia and the Rajah observing that the latter prince certainly wished to obtain Garrah Kota for himself and it was notorious that he had entered into negotiations and sent out armies for that purpose, and I enquired how the Peshwa proposed to defend Garrah Kota, in case the Rajah should attack it. The Minister said that the Peshwa intended to make over Garrah Kota to the Renter of Saugor who would defend it on ordinary occasions, and that if it were attacked by the Rajah of Berar, the Peshwa would be able with the assistance of British Government to oblige him by force of arms to desist.

11. I observed that this was exactly the consequence which might be expected from His Highness the Peshwa's endeavouring to revive his obsolete claims. He would embroil himself with all the present possessors of the countries he demanded, as well as with the other pretenders to them, and the very confusion and insecurity would be produced throughout India, which it was the object of the treaties, between the British Government, the Peshwa and the Nizam, to prevent. I then put an end to the discussion by calling the Minister's attention to the defence of his master's own immediate territories from the incursions of the Pindaries.

12. The above is the substance of a very long conversation. It is by no means the whole of what was said, but it is, I hope, sufficient to give Your Excellency an idea of the Minister's pretensions and of the arguments by which he attempted to support them.

13. On the subject of the Pindaries I acquainted the Minister that in consequence of His Highness's anxiety that the Rajah of Berar and the Nizam should defend their parts of the frontier of the Deccan, I had endeavoured to ascertain the state of their preparations. The Rajah of Berar, I knew, had long employed the whole resources of his Government against the Pindaries and

I found that the Nizam had 1,700 troops with a proportion of artillery on his frontier. The only part of the common frontier which remained unprotected was that which belonged to His Highness the Peshwa. The interest which my Government took in His Highness's prosperity, I added, made me very anxious to know whether His Highness had determined on any plans for the defence of his country since I last had the honour of seeing him.

14. Sadashiv Mankeshwar answered that the Peshwa has not determined on any new plan, but that His Highness had taken step for carrying that which he formerly mentioned to me into execution. He had made out drafts of letters to Sindhia and Holkar; desiring them to send troops to prevent the Pindaries crossing the Nerbudda and to the Rajah of Berar requesting him to oppose the entry of those freebooters into the Deccan. That he should call on the Jagirdars to move to the frontier with their quotas; that he had already a force of his own on the frontier and that he should expect if the Pindaries were strong to be assisted by the Subsidiary Force. He also mentioned a circumstance of which I had heard before; which was that Sindhia's troops had begun to act against the Pindaries, and had gained some advantage over them.

15. To this, I answered that if Sindhia and Holkar sent armies against the Pindaries, they would be more anxious to remove them from their own country, than to prevent them entering the Peshwa's, that the same observation applied to the Rajah of Berar, and that, in consequence, unless His Highness maintained a force to oppose them, the Pindaries would fly to his country, as a place of refuge, even if they were not tempted to come into it for plunder alone; that he best knew what he had to expect from the Jagirdars but that it was proper he should be apprized that this was not a service on which the British troops could properly be employed; that if there was occasion to fight any external enemy the force would of course be ready to serve; but that it could not be expected to hunt down banditti and that, in fact, it was not calculated for any such duty. Infantry, I observed was perfectly useless against the Pindaries, and there was only one regiment of cavalry with the force which could not possibly be of much service in acting against the numerous bodies into which the Pindaries would divide; that His Highness must therefore of necessity, depend entirely on his own resources for protection against the Pindaries and that I would most earnestly recommend to him to take effectual measures to save his country from the grievous calamities to which it would be exposed, if he neglected to take the necessary precautions in time.

16. The Minister said, the Peshwa did not mean to call for the assistance of our troops, unless the Pindaries came down in great force with Infantry and guns, that none of the Jagirdars except Gokhla and Appa Desai would attend, but that the refusal of the rest would justify the Peshwa in our eyes in seizing their Jagirs and applying the money to the maintenance of an obedient army.

17. I said that I did not see the advantage of this course of proceeding. If the Peshwa waited for the refusal of the Jagirdars, before he began to raise men, the first incursion of the Pindaries would be over before he had a force assembled and that it was far more difficult to oblige those plunderers to relinquish the attacks after success, than to deter them entirely by vigorous preparations; that if His Highness was disinclined to raising troops from an idea of the expense, he would do well to reflect that every rupee he saved by that means might, in the end, cost him a thousand. The Minister answered that I might be assured that the Peshwa was in earnest in his preparations and that he could raise 15,000 men in ten days, if he only entertained the numerous soldiery in his country who were now out of employ.

18. After I was gone, the Minister told my Parsee Accountant that he should not be able to persuade the Peshwa to entertain more troops; but that he thought if I would press the subject once or twice, His Highness would be prevailed on to agree to my suggestion.

19. Before I took my leave of the Minister, I begged his attention to the settlement with the Gaikwar State, and the Minister acquainted me that he was still waiting for the Gaikwar Vakeel's answer to his demands; that the Vakeel had applied for papers from the Peshwa's records to enable him to draw out his answer and that they had all been afforded to him.

20. I also pressed the Minister on the subject of many little affairs which he has allowed to remain unsettled for different periods from a year to a month or two. I remonstrated very strongly on this neglect of applications from the Residency but could get nothing but protestations that they were all in train, and would be speedily adjusted.

21. The drafts of letters to Sindhia, Holkar and the Rajah of Berar have been shown to me; they merely desire the two former to prevent the Pindaries crossing the Nerbudda and the latter to oppose their passage through his country.

22. The hill forts occupied by Gokhla in the Priti Nidhi's country have all been delivered up to the Peshwa. The rest of the affair is likely to remain so, for some time as the Peshwa is now busied in celebrating a festival which will last eight days, after which His Highness proposes to set out on a pilgrimage to a place near Satara.

23. Having received accounts of the death of the late Governor of Bambay, I directed the same salutes and other ceremonies which had been performed on this melancholy occasion at the stations under Bombay to be observed at Poona and Seroor. I

have since received visits of condolence from the Minister on the part of the Peshwa and from all the Vakeels now residing at this Court.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona : M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 18th August 1811. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 35.—This is a covering note to a copy of Edmonstone's letter to M. Elphinstone, dated 13th September 1811. In this letter Edmonstone on behalf of British Government comments on the subject of the transfer of Garha Kota to the Peshwa by the Sindhia and Bhonsla. While generally approving the attitude of Elphinstone he asks him to impress upon the Peshwa that Sindhia and Bhonsla became foreign rulers due to the operations of the Treaty of Bassein which dissolved the Maratha Confederacy. According to the 17th article of that Treaty Peshwa's foreign policy was to be controlled by the British, and hence the Peshwa could not enter into any treaty without the approval of the British Government.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 13th September 1811.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 3, dated the 21st of August, representing the condition of the Rajah's Government with relation to the danger with which his country is menaced by the Pindaries, the arrangements which had been projected respecting Garrah Kota and other points, which however interesting do not at present call for any particular observations.

2. The instructions of Government conveyed to the Resident at Poona in my letter of this date of which a copy is enclosed for your information are connected with that part of your dispatch which relates to Garrah Kota, and you may eventually have occasion to represent to His Highness the Rajah the light in which the Peshwa's claim to that country is considered by the British Government. If you should have the means of acquiring a knowledge of the authentic history of the petty Chiefs . . . . of Garrah Kota, His Excellency the Vice-President in Council desires that you will obtain and communicate it.

To—THE HON'BLE MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE,
RESIDENT AT POONA.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 7, dated the 18th ultimo, reporting the substance of your communication and conference with the Peshwa's Minister on the subject of Sindhia's alleged transfer of the country of Garrah Kota to the Peshwa and of the latter's claim to it.

2. Your opposition to the progress of this transaction and to the claim itself is of course approved by His Excellency the Vice-President in Council and the arguments which you employed on the occasion are considered to have been forcible and proper.

3. The conduct of the Peshwa's Durbar has throughout this transaction been inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the alliance and in fact a direct violation of the 17th article of the Treaty of Bassein which proceeds that His Highness the Peshwa shall not commence nor pursue any negotiations with any other state whatever without giving previous notice and entering into mutual consultation with the Company's Government.

4. The Peshwa conforms to this article by apprizing you in the first instance of the offer which he had received from Sindhia; he violated it by pursuing the negotiation in opposition to your advice; since the evident obligation of it is that as allies the parties should act with respect to such negotiation, in the mode that might be determined by mutual consultation, and it might perhaps have been advisable to have stated to His Highness the observation when you were first informed of his acceptance of Sindhia's offer in opposition to your consent, rather than confine your remonstrance to a representation of the disadvantages which would attend it.

5. The Peshwa however appears to have lost sight of the true spirit and interest of the treaty in a more general sense by adopting as the basis of his proceedings the ancient relations of the Mahratta *Federation which have been distinctly dissolved by the treaty of Bassein since compatibly with its provisions and obligations, they cannot exist.*

6. His excellency in Council is of opinion that every opportunity should be taken to remind the Peshwa of that fundamental principle of the alliance by which those relations have been annulled. He should be reminded that the British Government did not guarantee recovery of territorial claims out of the ancient constitutions of the Mahratta Empire, each claims indeed it would be difficult to assign a limit and His Highness might wish as much justice require . . . . . to support his universal claim to Chouth and his pretensions to all the conquests that were ever effected by the arms of his ancestors and have been lost by the revolutions of

suceeding times as expect our countenance to the revival of his pretensions to the insulated country of Garrah Kota or to his acceptance of the transfer of it to his dominions. He should be reminded that our guarantee cannot be constrained to extend to additional territory or to rights not acquired with our consent, and that he cannot reasonably expect our consent to unite with him in the recovery of claims which at the conclusion of the alliance were not brought forward and which have since been suffered to lie dormant during a period of nine years.

7. Under these circumstances the British Government is entitled to require that the Peshwa should revoke his orders to Balajee Kunjur for the occupation of Garrah Kota, and I am directed to desire that you will convey this requisition accordingly to the Durbar, supporting it by the argument which you have already employed and those which are suggested in this dispatch.

8. I am further instructed to observe that the requisitions addressed by the Peshwa to Sindhia, Holkar and Raghojee Bhonsla, as described in the 21st paragraph of your dispatch, although in themselves rather nugatory than objectionable, yet proceed upon the same inadmissible principle which has been already noticed upon the supposed continuance of the ancient constitution of the Marhatta Empire and they are irregular with reference to the spirit of the 17th article of the Treaty of Bassein. Such applications if judged expedient after mutual consultation should be made in the name of the allies.

9. It is of great importance to keep constantly in review the true principles of the alliance and to impress them on all occasions on the mind of the Peshwa, and I am therefore directed to state an observation on that part of your discourse to the Minister which intimated that Meer Khan's projects for overturning the established order of the Deccan gave the Peshwa a just ground of war with him and that if the Rajah of Garrah Kota had assisted Meer Khan in those unjustifiable schemes, His Highness might have had a right to go to war with him also.

10. This statement might be construed to imply the Peshwa's right to enter upon a war under his own conception of the urgency of the occasion. It is apparently giving him a voice in the question of peace or war on an occasion on which Government does not admit his right to judge and to determine. It is a point of foreign policy from the cognizance of which, except in communication with and under the guidance of his ally he is excluded. If the term allies had been employed instead of the Peshwa singly, the passage in question would not have been subject to remark.

11. His Excellency in Council does not suppose you to ascribe to the Peshwa the latitude of decision above described and stated in the preceding observation merely because under the evident disposition of His Highness to exercise privileges not consistent

with the principles of the alliance, it seems advisable to avoid in your communication with the Durbar any expressions that can have a tendency to countenance his assumptions.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort William:
The 13th Sept. 1811.

Letter No. 36.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of M. Elphinstone's address to the Vice-President in Council, dated the 3rd October 1811, in which Elphinstone describes his discussions with the Peshwa and his Ministers regarding the steps that the Peshwa should take for the internal defence of his dominions, against for example, the incursions of the Pindaries and the refractory conduct of his Jagirdars; the Subsidiary Troops, he said, had not been designed to help the Peshwa in this task. The Peshwa's negligible army and helplessness to effectually control his Jagirdars are also explained.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 12th October 1811.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of my address No. 8, of the 3rd instant, to His Excellency the Vice-President in Council at Fort William.

To—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

The festival mentioned in my report, dated August the 18th, prevented my seeing the Peshwa before he set out on the pilgrimage alluded to in the same dispatch. The Peshwa's mother-in-law died before his return, and the ceremonies of mourning prevented his receiving me till the approach of the Dussera put a stop to all business. From these circumstances, I had no opportunity of renewing the subject of the Peshwa's Army till yesterday evening, when His Highness.........(torn).........application for an audience.

2. His Highness was scarcely seated when he began to inform me of the substance of letters which he had received from Malwa and Khandesh and which he afterwards desired the Minister to read aloud. The letter from............stated that the troops which Sindhia formerly sent against the Pindaries had been obliged to

retire for want of money and equipment, that Holkar's troops were also withdrawn from the same service; that Karim Pindary had replied in terms of definance to an order which Sindhia had issued for his repairing to Gwalior; that the Pindarah Chief had avowed his independence of any established power, declaring that he was a robber, and that all countries were his, and ridiculing Sindhia's credulity in supposing that he would again put himself into the hands of a Chief who had so grossly broken faith.

3. I then enquired what His Highness conceived the number of the Pindaries to amount to. His Highness having replied that he thought they were 25,000 strong, pointed out the necessity of his entertaining a much larger body of troops than his present establishment to oppose them.

4. The Peshwa replied at considerable length, the substance of his discourse was, that he had entertained a certain number of troops and had ordered his Jagheerdars to attend with their contingents, and that if the Subsidiary Force were sent to the frontier, as the Nizam's Subsidiary Force was there, there would be no ground for apprehension. I begged leave to correct the mistake His Highness had fallen into in stating the Nizam's Subsidiary Force to be on the frontier. It was farther from Hyderabad than the force serving with His Highness was from Poona, but the distance from Jalna to the nearest part of the Nizam's frontier was not a great deal less than that between Seroor and the nearest point in His Highness's frontier, and the distance from Jalna to the most remote part of Berar proper was far greater than that from Seroor to any part of the Peshwa's northern dominions. I observed that Jalna and Seroor were selected as preferable to any points on the frontier for the stations of our troops, that if they were more advanced they could each only protect one point while all the rest of the frontier and the whole of the country in their rear, would be open to any invader. It was not therefore from the advanced position of the British Force, but from the number of troops which the Nizam himself maintained in Berar that his dominions were protected from the incursions of the Pindaries. That if His Highness would adopt the same measure his territories would be equally secure which I was sorry to say was not the case at present. I observed that His Highness abolished the establishment of Sebundies throughout all his dominions, so that there were no troops to defend his villages (in ?) smaller Garrisons. That he had not a single man beyond his own two thousand horse, 500 of the Vinchoor Jagirdar's and two Battalions of Infantry to defend his whole frontier and that the Pindaries might plunder his open country and sack his villages up to Poona almost unopposed. That such an event would not only be calamitous but disgraceful, that His Highness's army ought to be on such a footing as to render his territories at all times safe from incursions of marauders, and that I hoped to see the time when His Highness would not be obliged to deliberate on the means of opposing such an enemy.

5. The Peshwa assented to most of these observations, but said he had an . . . . that a great part of his revenue were allotted to maintain it, but that the Commanders disregarded his orders and incited on affording him any assistance, obliged him to employ some of his other troops in watching their motions. His Highness plainly alluding to the Southern Jaghirdars I said, that however unjustifiable their conduct might be, yet as it seemed certain that their services could not be commanded, there only remained to employ some other means for the defence of the country, I added that if the Peshwa would keep up such an army as became the greatness of his State, he would be enabled to overawe all his subjects and would easily influence the Jaghirdars who had never revolted from him, although the relaxation of the Government induced them after to disregard his orders.

6. The Peshwa then said that the Southern Jaghirdars might remain idle as I seemed to think it advisable and that our troops might stay at Seroor, but if the small body of troops that he could muster were overpowered it would not be his fault. I replied by assuring the Peshwa that nobody would be more happy than I should, if His Highness could command the services of all his subjects, but that as he had himself declared that he could not prevail on the Jaghirdars to send their contingents, I had recommended his procuring other troops to serve in their room, because if his country were ravaged, it would be no consolation to reflect that the calamity was occasioned by a fault of the Jagirdars. I said that our troops were always ready to act in defence of His Highness at a moment's warning, but that their employment was limited by the treaty to services of importance, and that duties like the present would be best performed by His Highness's own forces; with respect to the probability of a small body of His Highness's troops being overpowered by the Pindaries, I said, I had not recommended his detaching a small body, and that if he would send a large one, there would be no fear of such a misfortune.

7. After some further conversation on this last subject, the Peshwa laughed and said, he believed he must entertain more cavalry although he should be obliged to borrow money from the bankers to enable him (torn). As I have reason to think that the Peshwa is far from being in any pecuniary difficulties, I did not take much notice of this remark merely observing that by organizing his army he would be enabled to secure his territories, and save his revenues from injury and that no state gave a better example of the advantage of spending money when circumstances required it than the British Government.

8. The greater part of the above conversation was supported by the Peshwa either directly or through the Minister. In what follows the Minister spoke for himself.

9. He first spoke of the probability of the Pindaries being secretly instigated by Sindhia and Holkar, to which I opposed the same obvious arguments that I made use of on a former occasion. He then asked what was to be done if it should appear that

Sindhia and Holkar were the real invaders of (torn) country, I said that the Peshwa's country had not as yet been invaded at all; that there was no shadow of reason for suspecting Sindhia and Holkar, of any design against it but if they should be guilty of any aggression, the alliance was strong enough to prevent any bad effects arising from their attack. The Minister then asked what the British Government would do, if Sindhia and Holkar were to carry on a formidable predatory war without appearing themselves to be concerned in it; I said that if such an improbable state of things were to arise the British Government would of course dispose its troops in such a manner as should enable it to frustrate the designs of the enemy.

10. The Minister then endeavoured to represent the expected inroad of the Pindaries as a formidable invasion. He said, they were coming not only with light troops to plunder, but with good cavalry, infantry and guns, which would be sufficient to defeat any army which the Peshwa could assemble, and that as this was the case, the Subsidiary Force ought to move out to oppose them. I observed in answer that there was no probability of the Pindaries making such an inroad as the Minister described; that they had raised infantry and cast guns on former occasions but that they had always made use of them to reduce the country in their own neighbourhood, and had employed their cavalry alone on their predatory expeditions. If, however, the Pindaries or any other power attempted a serious invasion of His Highness's territories, the Subsidiary Force was ready to oppose them, but at present it must be confessed that predatory incursion was more to be apprehended, and I should be happy to see the Peshwa's Troops prepared to repel it.

11. The Minister replied that whenever the occasion required the Peshwa would produce the number of troops which were required by the treaty, but he said that the British Troops ought to be employed on repelling predatory incursions as well as serious invasions and referred me to the Treaty of Bassein for the proof of his assertion. I observed that it was expressly stipulated in the Treaty of Bassein that the British Troops were not to be employed on trifling occasions and the Minister answered that the British Government was to allow no power or state to injure the Peshwa's territories, but was to defend them in the same manner as the Company's territories were defended. The Minister here alluded to the 2nd article of the treaty but he insisted much more on the 9th article by which the British Government is bound to chastise exciters of disturbance, and to correct such of the Peshwa's subjects and dependents as shall withhold His Highness's just claims. As he dwelt most on this last clause which cannot be applied to the . . . . . . I conceive that he meant to take this opportunity adducing an argument in favour of the Peshwa's favourite scheme of establishing his claims on the Southern Jaghirdar. As this subject was not in discussion, I took no notice of that part of the Minister's discourse, but said, that by the Treaty of Bassein we

became His Highness's allies and were bound to assist him on all just occasions where our aid was required but that it was never intended by either party that the Peshwa should reduce his Army, pay off his Sebundies, and leave every kind of military service great and small to be performed by the Subsidiary Force; that the terms of our Treaty with the Nizam were similar to those of our Treaty with His Highness, yet the Nizam kept up a respectable force fully sufficient to protect his dominions from plunder and to maintain his authority on most occasions over all his subjects. That they (torn) both these treaties plainly was that the British Government should defend their allies from all formidable attacks or insurrections but that each power should maintain the tranquillity of its own territories in ordinary times. I said that the British Government had fully performed its part, and was ready when required to perform it again; and that it remained with His Highness to perform his part in which both his honour and his interest were deeply concerned.

12. As it was now getting late and as the Peshwa's presence was required at some religious ceremony, His Highness broke off the conversation by requesting that I would discuss the subject on some other occasion with the Minister. His Highness added that he had nothing further to say but that his whole dependence was on the British Government.

13. The two thousand horse of which the Peshwa spoke are actually in readiness and His Highness has ordered all the Jagirdars to move to the frontier with their contingents. Most of these Chiefs will probably excuse themselves on different pretexts, or send small and useless detachments. Appa Desai, whose obedience might be depended on, is prevented from marching by the circumstances in which he is placed. The only Jagirdar who can now be depended on is Bapuji Gokhla, who will be able to move with about 1,500 horse. This will make the Peshwa's force on the frontier amount to 4,000 horse and two battalions of infantry, and if His Highness can be prevailed on to make any considerable addition to his number, the Pindaries will probably be discouraged from attacking his country which their success in their last incursion might otherwise induce them to attempt.

14. The Peshwa has lately spoken . . . . . . of raising a body of infantry. His plan was to raise six strong Battalions and to apply to the British Government for officers to command them but he proposed to commence by raising two Battalions which together were to amount to 2,400 men. His Highness enquired of me whether the British Government would supply him with arms at the usual prices, and I replied that I was not authorized to give any promise on that head but that I thought the Government would be perfectly disposed to assist him to any extent which might be practicable without interfering with its own arrangements. His Highness also requested me to furnish him

with statements of the rates of pay of different ranks in our service and of the prices of guns, musquets, and other military stores. These statements were procured and sent to His Highness and for some time I received frequent messages from him on the subject but for this last fortnight I have heard no more of the plan.

15. The Government is apprized of the quarrel which has long subsisted between Appa Desai and the Rajah of Kolhapore. Their enmity has not occasioned any open disturbance since the last defeat of the Rajah by Appa Desai, but it seems probable that the petty war between them will soon be renewed. The Rajah of Kolhapore has for some time been entertaining troops, and has lately plundered a village belonging to Appa Desai. He has for some time been engaged in negotiations with Chintaman Rao who is said to have entered into his views, and to have accepted the office of Sena Pati or General in his service. It appears certain that their intention is to attack Appa Desai and that Chief is himself convinced that they entertain such a design. He replied to the Peshwa's letter directing him to repair to the frontier by stating these circumstances, offering at the same time to send part of his contingent if the Peshwa required it. At the same time he wrote to the same effect to me. The Peshwa immediately ordered an answer to be written to Appa Desai, desiring him to remain at his Jagheer with all his troops.

16. The other Jagirdars are quiet at present. Chintaman Rao is said to have applied to Appa Sahib Patwardhan to join in the attack on Appa Desai, but I have not heard what encouragement Appa Sahib gave to the proposal. The Peshwa's Troops amounting to about 500 cavalry and 1,200 infantry with 2 guns, are besieging Hoobly but they seem as yet to have made little progress.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona : M. ELPHINSTONE,
The 3rd October 1811. Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 37.—In this address Elphinstone refers to the points raised by the Peshwa's Minister in his discussions about the cession of Garha Kota and what Elphinstone said to refute them. Chintaman Rao's Vakil was questioned by Elephinstone about the matters pertaining to the relations between Chintaman Rao, the Rajah of Kolhapur, and the Peshwa.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HEWETT, VICE-PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, the 13th October 1811.

1. I waited on the Minister last night for the purpose of communicating Your Excellency's request on the subject of Garrah Kota, and of discussing several points which remained unsettled at my audience of the Peshwa.

2. The first topic introduced was that of certain letters received by the Peshwa and the Minister from Chintaman Rao, but this subject was suspended till Chintaman Rao's Vakeel, to whom I wished to put some questions, should attend.

3. I then made the communication regarding Garrah Kota in the language of my instructions, and supported the justice of Your Excellency's decision by the arguments funished to me in Mr. Edmonstone's dispatch.

4. I had expected that the former instances would have induced the Peshwa to recall his orders to Balajee Kunjur, and that, at all events, they would be immediately recalled when your Exellency's decision was made known. In this I found myself much deceived, for as soon as I had finished what I had to say, the Minister recurred to all his former arguments intended to prove that Garrah Kota belonged to the Peshwa, and brought forward, in course of the discussion which followed, all the pretensions to extend sovereignty which I had before contested and repelled.

5. My former dispatches will have made your Excellency acquainted with the nature of these extravagent pretensions, and of the arguments by which they were supported. It would be a waste of your Excellency's time to repeat them here. All the Minister's arguments went to prove that the great Maratta feudatories were the Peshwa's subjects and that no misconduct of theirs, ... no treaties between them and the British Government, could free them from their allegiance.

6. The substance of my reply was that those Chiefs had long ceased to be the Peshwa's subjects that His Highness had virtually renounced their allegiance on many former occasions as he had, fully and expressly, when he accepted the treaties of peace with Sindhia and the Rajah of Berar, that to revive His Highness's claims, would be injurious to his interests and inconsistent with his faith; that the whole system of Marratta politics was founded on the existing state of affairs, and that, if His Highness would disturb it, he would not only overtturn all his relations to the Maratta Chiefs, but materially affect his connection with

the British Government. I earnestly recommended to the Minister to be careful how he again advanced these unbecoming pretentions, which would probably displease the Peshwa, as much as I was sure, they would surprise your Excellency.

7. The Minister was not satisfied with these answers, but stated the arguments he had advanced, again and again, introducing the Peshwa's claims on Bundelkhand, his grounds of complaint against the Southern Jagirdars, and many other matters equally extraneous to that in dispute.

8. The conversation had continued from a long time without any satisfactory result, when it was put an end to by the arrival of Chintaman Rao's Vakeel. I renewed it for a moment, as I was taking my leave, by requesting the Minister to communicate your Excellency's decision to the Peshwa, and to send off counter orders respecting Garrah Kota, without delay. I also recommended to him strongly not to resume the strange pretensions which he had now brought forward, which were inconsistent with the terms and spirit of all our treaties, and which he might be assured, would give great offence.

9. Translations of the letters from Chintaman Rao are annexed to this dispatch. They speak of Chintaman Rao's confederacy with the Rajah of Kolhapore for the purpose of attacking Appa Desai, as an arrangement proposed by the Peshwa's Minister, and refer to certain letters from Chintaman Rao's Vakeel to his master, in which that proposal is detailed. The Minister solemnly protested his ignorance of the proposal alluded to in the letters, and said that Chintaman Rao's Vakeel denied having written anything to his master that gave the smallest colour to his present insinuations. When the Vakeel came, I questioned him closely on this subject, but without deriving any further information from him. He denied ever having reported any conversation with the Ministers regarding the Rajah of Kolhapore or Appa Desai, except one, in which the Minister refused to listen to anything which Chintaman Rao's Vakeel might have to say on the part of the Rajah, and desired that all communications from the Rajah might be made through his own Vakeel.

10. I am not able to account for the conduct of Chintaman Rao in this affair, which involves several inconsistencies and contradictions. I told the Minister that we might hereafter be able to discover the history of this alledged correspondence, and that in the mean time I would recommend these letters from the Durbar should be written to Chintaman Rao, disavowing the communication imputed to the Minister, and positively prohibiting Chintaman Rao from taking any shape in the Rajah of Kolhapore's designs.

11. In course of this evening, I took an opportunity of speaking of the claims of the British Government on account of Amrut Rao as an unadjusted demand which it was likely to be hereafter renewed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Poona :
The 13th October 1811.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Substance of a letter from Chintaman Rao to Sedoo Bapujee Kaiscur his Vakeel at Poona, dated the 4th of Ramzan, answering to the 23rd of September 1811.

The Rajah of Kolhapore formerly made overtures of friendship to me through a certain person and I declined them. I formerly informed you of all this and you reported what Sadashiv Pandit Bhow said which I communicated to the person through whom the overtures were made; on which the Rajah sent Bhow Joshi Rao Rutnacur Pant, Rauj Adneea, and Nayajee Jaudoo Jubtool moolk, to me. I wrote you about this on the 20th (the Vakeel denies having received this letter) of Shaban and also wrote to Sadashiv Pant Bhau. I told the three persons above-mentioned what you stated the Bhow to have said and they promised to acquaint the Rajah and bring me his reply. I informed you of their answer on the 25th of Shaban. They had spoken to the Rajah who said that he should not hesitate about a little expense if he could get Chikori and Manowlee, and that I must manage to get them for him. If this could not be done immediately the Rajah declared he would do as I might recommend. The Rajah has sent the Rauj Adneea his own immediate representative to me to induce me to manage this affair for him, and he has left it to my direction to settle what was to be done, if I could not immediately manage it. As he has done this, I must perform this service for him. Notwithstanding our enmity, he has sent his Rauj Adneea and has left everything to my direction. I have therefore written to you. Do you mention this to the Bhow, and so manage, that the affair above alluded to may be brought about. Let letters concerning this confederacy be issued by the Peshwa to the Rajah of Kolhapore and to me; if this be not effected, it is as you wrote formerly, viz., exclusively of Chickoree and Manowly if that be done, something will be done. Accordingly let the Peshwa's letters about the confederacy be sent immediately to the Rajah and me. You formerly wrote that you had spoken to the Mody (The accountant of the Residency. He denies having had any communication with the Vakeel). Let the Mody now consult the English, that they may not take his part.

Therefore do as I told you. I enclose an address to the Peshwa, and a letter to the Bhow. Do you persue them and deliver them. There has been some delay in receiving the Rajah's answer. I therefore send by a camel Hercarrah in preference to the Dak. Explain everything in detail according to these instructions. Get the letters and send them off that they may arrive during the Dushera.

I have also sent a letter for the Mody, if it should be necessary deliver it, and get the opinion of the English, and let me know it, that we may not get into a scrape. My mother went lately to Kolhapore. He tried to raise a disturbance against her. Keep that in mind, and see that the letters reach me during the Dushera.

A true translation.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Translation of a letter from Chintaman Rao to the Minister of His Highness the Peshwa, dated Ramzan 4th, answering to September 23rd, 1811.

The Rajah of Kolhapore formerly made an overture to me and I declined it.

Seedoo Punt Kaiscur wrote to me what you said about the Rajah of Kolhapore and I communicated it to the person who was the channel of the Rajah's overture; on which the Rajah sent Bhow Joshi Rao Ratnakur Punt, Rauj Adneea, and Rayajee Jaudoo Zubtool Moolk told me. I wrote you about this. I told these three persons what you said to Kaiscur. They said they would inform the Rajah. I have written the Rajah's answer to Kaiscur who will acquaint you with it. Do you lay the affair before the Peshwa, and carry it into effect. I have addressed the Peshwa to the above effect, and referred him to you. What enmity was there between the Rajah and me. Yet he was sent three of his most confidential Ministers. The Rauj Adneea is the Rajah himself. I told him what you said to my Vakeel. That which could not be hoped as taken place, and these three have come. This is all through Ganpati's will, and the Peshwa's favour. Kaiscur will speak to you on this subject. Do you lay the affair before the Peshwa, and carry it into effect. Let the Peshwa's letter arrive during the Dushera, as my Vakeel will request.

A true translation.

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 38.—This is a covering note to a copy of Edmonstone's letter to Elphinstone, dated the 1st November 1811. This letter is important because Edmonstone discusses the good and bad consequences of the system of Subsidiary Alliances, and foreshadows its possibilities in the interest of the extension of the British Empire in India. The paragraphs 3—7 are very important and full of diplomatic wisdom.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 1st November 1811.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information, the companying copy of a letter of this date, addressed under the authority of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council to the Resident at Poona.

TO—THE HON'BLE M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 8, dated the 3rd ultimo, reporting the substance of your conference with His Highness the Peshwa on the subject of the expected incursion of the Pindaries.

2. His Excellency the Vice-President in Council entirely approves the tenor of your discourse to the Peshwa on that occasion, particularly your observations tending to impress upon His Highness's mind a just conception of the practical intent of the treaty of defensive alliance which His Highness is evidently disposed to interpret as imposing upon the British Government the exclusive burden of protecting his dominions, as rendering the British force the instrument of those exertions which it is the duty of every state to employ for its internal security.

3. Such honour is the natural tendency of all subsidiary alliances which originate in the strength of one party, and the weakness of the other. The latter relieved from its danger and its apprehensions and withheld from the contemplation of projects of aggrandizement and ambition ceases to be actuated by any motives of exertion. The prince reposes in indolence and security under the assured protection of his ally. His military establishment is neglected, and his attention is directed to the accumulation of those resources, which under other circumstances would necessarily be applied to the support of an efficient army.

4. The protecting power on the other hand loses all but the negative advantages of the original compact and is exposed to immediate evils and prospective dangers. The necessary consequence

of this charge is the control of disorder and insubordination arising from the decay of energy in the governing power, without possessing the means of exercising the restraints of local authority. The sphere of its protection is extended without deriving from the alliance that accession of strength which it was intended, and in its original condition was calculated to afford. It retains only the negative although certainly the most essential benefit of being no longer exposed to the disquietude or the danger arising from the existence of an independent dominion left at liberty to take advantage of any circumstances favourable to the prosecution of hostile or ambitious designs, or susceptible of being added to the power of other hostile states; but it incurs a danger of considerable magnitude, the danger arising from the eventual aversion of the present or future head of the state to an alliance which it protects his dominions, controls his power, and wounds his pride; from the weakness, the folly or the views of his character, and from the intrigues and machinations of his ministers, advisers or feudatory chiefs who have no natural interest in the preservation of the alliance and have ends to answer by aiming at the subversion of it. Under the operation of these causes, a main object of the alliance is not only lost, but perverted, the expected source of additional strength becomes an instrument of peril, and must operate most injuriously under the occurrence of the very contingencies against which it was intended to provide.

5. These observations have been practically verified in the case of our alliance with the State of Hyderabad and they demonstrate the importance of obtaining if possible, a security for the effectual operation of our subsidiary alliances, which may be independent of the character or disposition of the ruling Chief or the means of counteracting the dangers arising from those alliances in their present inefficient and still declining state. At the same time it is by no means the intention of those remarks to question the policy of these subsidiary alliances or their great beneficial influence on the condition of the British Empire in India. In time past—present and to come—they have added most materially to our power and resources and they have placed for ever at a distance dangers far greater than any to be apprehended from the operation of the evils above described. But these alliances like all other human arrangements bear within them the sources of their own decay and require the application of corrective measures to obviate their natural and progressive tendency to dissolution.

6. The most effectual and apparently the only mode of accomplishing either of the important objects stated in the preceding paragraph is the adoption and extension of the system already partially established in the dominions of the Nizam; that of placing Corps in the pay of the allied state under the command of British Officers. His Excellency in Council therefore learns with great satisfaction from the 15th paragraph of your dispatch, that the partial establishment of that system of His Highness the Peshwa,

and found on this circumstance a hope that the measure of organizing a considerable body of the Peshwa's Troops by means of British subjects or officers may progressively be accomplished. It is consequently the earnest desire of His Excellency in Council that the Peshwa's suggestion should be encouraged and promoted by every means in your power consistent with the delicacy and caution necessary to preclude the alarm of jealousy and suspicion which would render it abortive.

7. It is premature to enter into a consideration of the details of such a system, and it is only necessary at the present moment to direct your particular attention to the means of reviving the agitation of the question and of leading the Peshwa to propose, or persuading him to consent to the introduction of it, on a scale however confined. A foundation being once laid it may not be difficult gradually to extend the system, until it shall have attained the magnitude which is ultimately desirable.

Fort William : N. B. EDMONSTONE,
The 1st November 1811. Chief Secretary to Government.

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Fort William : N. B. EDMONSTONE,
The 1st November 1811. Chief Secretary to Government.

HOLKAR'S AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1.—In the four enclosures addressed to Edmonstone, Archibald Seton, the Resident at Delhi, reports that Jodhpur was still invested by the Maharaja of Jaipore; that Ambajee Inglia wanted to interfere on behalf of the Sindhia; that Serji Rao Ghatgay in combination with Ameer Khan the Pindari leader had moved towards Jaipore to commit depredations in Jaipore territories; that Holkar does not want to interfere in the disputes between the Rajput states and had become very fretful; that Ranjit Singh had been invited to resolve a dispute between the Rajah and Ranee of Patiala; and that the affairs in Kashmir were in disorder.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 1st September 1807.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copies of dispatches from the Resident at Delhi of the dates noted in the margin containing the latest information received by this Government of the state of affairs in Hindostan.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

Since the dispatch of my letter of the 23rd ultimo, to your address, on the subject of the state of public matters at Jodhpore, etc., nothing has occurred but what might have been expected to take place.

2. My latest intelligence from that quarter is that of the 31st ultimo. It confirms the former accounts of the distracted state of the country of Jodhpore, the dissensions prevailing among the different parties, the misunderstanding between Ameer Khan and the Rajah of Jaipore, and the consequent probability of that country becoming the seat of depredations.

3. Rajah Man Singh continues besieged in the fort of Jodhpur. The besieging army does not appear to have made any impression upon the place, but the Rajah's power of defence, as well as his means of annoying the enemy, are much reduced by the loss of many of his able and most confidential officers. Among the number of these are the Killadar or Commandant of the place and his own uncle, both of whom fell on the 21st of last month. Their loss is said to have greatly afflicted the Rajah, and disheartened the garrison; still, however, Man Singh declares his intention of holding out to the very last, although he only possesses the forts of Jodhpur and Jalour. Possibly he expects that in consequence of the disunion among his enemies, and above all, from the defection of a great number of Rathores, a favourable change may yet take place in his affairs.

4 Certain it is that as far as can be conjectured from circumstances, and from the situation of the parties, their views are altogether different, and they can hardly be expected to act long in concert. The Rajah of Jaipore appears to be still bent upon the object which first induced him to entertain a war so foreign to his true interests, viz., the celebration of his nuptials with the daughter of the Rana of Udaipore. His impatience to proceed thither, for that purpose, appears upon all occasions, and even now, when his country is in danger of suffering from the contributions and depredations of Ameer Khan, his eagerness to proceed to Udaipur, does not appear to be diminished.

5. The object of Ambajee's enjoining the enemies of Man Singh appears to have been two fold, viz., to obtain a sum of money, and to prevent the influence of Dowlat Rao Sindia in that quarter from suffering, through non-interference. The former of these has been accomplished as the Rajah of Jaipore paid him twelve lacs of rupees soon after his arrival at Jodhpore and put him in possession of that . . . . of Pergunnah Jaumur, which until then had belonged to the Rajah of Jodhpore, and Thakoor Sowey Singh, Rajah Dounkul Singh's most firm partisan, and of all the Rathore Chiefs the most powerful, and the most hostile to Man Singh, has promised to pay him nine lacs, as soon as Dhokul Singh is confirmed in the Raje. According to the latest accounts Ambajee and Sowey Singh were in the vicinity of Mertha, a large place about a hundred miles to the south-eastward of Jodhpore.

6. I observed, in my last dispatch, that a large body of Rathors had quitted the Jaipore camp in disgust, and that every endeavour to conciliate and induce them to return had been ineffectual. They still continue to adhere to their former resolution, being greatly displeased with the conduct of the Rajah of Jaipore and very unwilling to submit to the control of Sewai Singh. According to the latest accounts, they were proceeding towards Kishangarh.

7. It was stated in former accounts that Ameer Khan and Serjee Rao Ghatgay were proceeding to Poona-Pokur, in the vicinity of Ajmer; from which it appeared likely that they had it in contemplation to move towards Jaipore and commit depredations. The latest intelligence states that they were at Kishangarh, and that Ameer Khan had ordered his infantry thither from the vicinity of Hindostan. It appears probable that the Rajah of Jaipore will, at length, be under the necessity of returning to his capital to protect his country from the ravages of Ameer Khan and his unprincipled adherent, Serjee Rao Ghatgay. In the meantime he has detached a force against them, under the command of Shivlal and Khushal Singh.

8. Jeswant Rao Holkar, who is still at Berkhaban, Rampoora appears to have relinquished every idea of interfering in the contest between the Rajput states. His army is said to be reduced to a very small number. If the accounts repeatedly stated in the newspapers can be depended upon, his temper is become so very fretful that none of his Sardars can now approach him without running a risk of being disgraced. The instances of his ungovernable petulance, with which the newspapers abound, are so ludicrous that they could not with propriety be detailed in a public dispatch.

9. The disputes between Rajah Sahib Singh of Patiala and his Ranee begin to assume a more serious aspect. They have both sent Vakeels to Sardar Ranjeet Singh of Lahore, inviting him to Patiala and requesting him to become the arbiter of their differences, which it is said he has promised to do, as soon as the abatement of the water in the Ravi and the Sutluj shall have rendered the passage of those rivers less difficult than it is at present. Ranjeet Singh is now at Lahore. He is said to have positively refused to comply with the pressing solicitations made, in person, by Rajah Sunsar Chand of Nandoun, for assistance against the Gurkhas, who appear to gain ground, and to be establishing themselves in the country of that unfortunate Chieftain.

10. The latest accounts from Kabul and Kashmir do not contain any fresh intelligence of importance. They state that the Vazeer in Kashmir continuing the blockade of the fort to which Abdullah Khan, the former Subahdar, had retreated with his family.

11. I am happy to say that the usual tranquillity continues to prevail at Delhi, and in its vicinity.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Delhi: ARCHIBALD SETON,
The 9th August 1807. Resident at Delhi.

A true copy

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

From the observations contained in some of my late dispatches to your address, the Hon'ble the Governor-General will have been pleased to observe that the breach between the Rajah and the Ranee of Patiala had been continually increasing and that Sardar Ranjeet Singh of Lahore had been solicited by both to repair to Patiala for the purpose of settling the difference. Whether the endeavours of the Sikh Chieftains Rajah Bhagsingh, Bhye Lal Singh etc., to bring about a reconciliation were serious may perhaps be doubted, although, in their letters to me, on the subject, they declare their exertions to have been sincere. Certain however it is that they have not been successful. Rajah Sahib Singh is more indignant than ever at the political power assumed by the Ranee, and more especially at her declared determination to keep possession of the fort of Patiala, which he considers as an act of marked insult and peculiar degradation. As, however, his great deficiency of intellect prevents him from giving dignity to his indignation, his personal influence is but inconsiderable, and he seems to have failed altogether in his endeavours to excite sympathy, and to render his cause, the cause of the other Sikh Sardars, who are connected with him by the ties of blood.

2. It seems now to be no longer a matter of doubt, that the restless and impatient turn of mind which distinguishes Ranjeet Singh together with his ambition and desire to take the lead in adjusting the difference have induced him to promise to proceed to Patiala for that purpose and it appears likely that he will quit Lahore as soon as the two rivers which he must necessarily cross shall have begun to fall, unless his eager sanguine disposition should induce him rather to encounter the difficulty which the swollen streams of the Beyah and the Sutlej will oppose to his progress than to postpone his march to a late period. In the event of his proceeding in force, to Patiala, (a point, which in the opinion of his kinsman and confidential friend Bhagsingh, seems not yet to be decided) it would occasion great confusion and distress in that quarter, although I trust its mischievous effects would not be felt beyond the limits of the territories of Rajah Sahib Singh.

3. I shall think it my duty to report regularly the movements and seeming plans of Ranjeet Singh as also the state of the country of Patiala together with any changes which may take place or which may appear likely to occur with respect to it.

4. A person called Bahadur Singh deputed hither by Jeswant Rao Holkar in quality of Vakeel to His Majesty, and (as Holkar expressed it) for the purpose of transacting business with me,

arrived here this morning. The real and particular object of this deputation, which was annexed to me in a very friendly manner by Holkar, shall be reported in the course of a short time.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Delhi :
The 11th August 1807.

ARCHIBALD SETON,
Resident at Delhi.

A true copy.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

In my dispatch of the 9th instant I had the honour to acquaint you that such of the Rathore Sardars as were determined on continuing neutral were proceeding towards Kishangarh and that they had rejected every attempt on the part of the Rajah of Jaipore and the Rathore Chief Thakur Sowey Singh to induce them to return. It appears from subsequent accounts that they had been actually joined by Ameer Khan and Serjee Rao Ghatgay.

2. In the Jodhpore newspaper of the 7th instant it is stated that on the 8th an action had taken place near Kishangarh, which is a few miles from Ajmer, between Ameer Khan, Serjee Rao Ghatgay and the neutral party of the Rathores in one side, and the troops of the Rajah of Jaipore under the command of Sheo Lal on the other, in which the former were defeated and taken to flight. It is probable that Ameer Khan, if the check, which he appears to have received, be serious, he will endeavour to form a junction with his infantry, which had already received orders to march towards him from the north-eastward and that when so reinforced, he will renew the contest.

3. To this advantage, much importance is attached by the Rajah of Jaipore, who manifested his satisfaction by ordering a salute to be fired and by other demonstrations of joy. The project of proceeding to Udaipore to conclude the marriage was eagerly resumed, as if he had completely succeeded in crushing all his enemies. Yet, it would appear that Ameer Khan's infantry was not in the action, and it seems probable that when the latter unites his whole force he may have it in his power to do much mischief in the Raja's territories.

4. The fort of Jodhpore continued to hold out but the garrison is said to be much diminished.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Delhi : ARCHIBALD SETON,

The 15th August 1807. Resident at Delhi.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

On the 15th instant, I had the honour to communicate to you for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council the latest Political intelligence from Jodhpore.

2. The public newspapers which I have received since the dispatch of that letter contain nothing of importance. It would, however, appear from private accounts that the territory of Jaipore is threatened with serious troubles. It is stated in a letter of the 14th instant, which I have just seen, from an intelligent person at Jodhpore to one of the first rankers at this place that Ameer Khan was at Sudhera about thirty miles from the city of Jaipore, and that he was to be joined there by the discontented Rathores who after having proceeded with Serjee Rao Ghatgay towards Shahpoorah had returned to Kishangarh near Ajmer, but that the violence of the rain had prevented the junction from taking place. It is, however, added that previously to Ameer Khan's taking decisive measures, he wished to receive a reply to a reference which he had made to Jeswant Rao Holkar.

3. His intelligence had, it is said, given great uneasiness to Rai Rattan Lal, the Dewan and confidential adviser of the Rajah of Jaipore, who, it is further stated, had dispatched pressing instructions to his people at Jaipore, and Ameer (the place where the treasures and jewels of the Rajah are usually kept) urging them to be upon their guard, as the enemy was at hand.

4. All the accounts from the northward agree in stating that Sardar Ranjeet Singh means to proceed without delay to Patiala. This circumstance has given great uneasiness to all those of the Sikh Chieftains who are in the interest of the Ranee, such as Bhye Lal Singh of Kheytul, Bhunga Singh of Phaunasser etc., but to none more than to Kurreem Singh, her son, from whom I this day received a letter expressive of his alarm, and soliciting the protection of the British Government. I was too well acquainted with the system of Government, to be under the necessity of deferring my reply until I could obtain instructions. I accordingly informed Kurreem Singh that a compliance with his

request would be inconsistent with the system of our Government, which was to decline entering into war of aggression although always in a state of preparation for war. This Kurreem Singh is the favourite of his mother the Ranee, and it is in his behalf, that she wishes her husband to resign the Raje, alleging with less . . . . than truth, that he has not sufficient ability to govern the country, or to make his authority be respected.

5. The report of the death of Abdullah Khan, the former Subahdar of Kashmir, which has been so frequently circulated and contradicted, seems at length to be confirmed, a circumstance which will probably prevent the Vazeer of the King of Kabul from meeting with any further resistance in that province.

Delhi: ARCHIBALD SETON,
The 17th August 1807. Resident at Delhi.

Letter No. 2.—This is a brief letter forwarding the enclosures which are extracts from the Akhbars, and convey important news about the health and the general state of affairs of Jeswant Rao Holkar.

FROM—HENRY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Poona, the 19th November 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, a translation of an Akhbar which I have just received from the Camp of Jeswant Rao Holkar dated the 7th instant.

I observe that the wish of Holkar to visit Jejoory has already been mentioned in several of Colonel Close's dispatches.

I shall take immediate measures to ascertain the truth of the circumstances stated in this Akhbar, but I am induced to apprehend from my not having received any intimation on the subject, through any other channel that even if the steps described in the Akhbar, have really been taken it has not been with any serious intention on the part of Holkar's Minister's to make an actual movement to this direction.

Translation of an Akhbar from the Camp of Jeswant Rao Holkar at Biawara Purgunnah of Dhar, the 7th of November 1809.

This morning the Maharaja became senseless, his neck and limbs were constricted, his jaw was locked, and it seemed as if came to the tent, and on seeing the condition of the Maharaj were very much afflicted, and loud lamentations were uttered throughout the female apartments. In about four Gharis a voice from the Maharaj exclaimed: "Do not be alarmed, I am your Deity." The Ministers hearing this said, "What offence has the Maharaj committed that you vex him so sorely?" The voice replied, "He has committed numerous offences, and you must now conduct him to Jejoory, and prostrate him at my feet. He will then be restored to health. Do not allow yourselves to be disturbed at any opportunity that may be made to him."

The Ministers immediately sent for an Astrologer, and fixed on the day after tomorrow for the Maharaj's commencing his march towards Jejoory. The standard has been erected in southerly direction. A salute of 21 guns has been fired and sugar has been distributed on account of the new life to which the Maharaj has been restored. The march towards the Deccan has been positively resolved on, and the Maharaj is in the possession of his senses.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL,

Acting Resident.

Translation of a paper of intelligence from Camp of Jeswant Rao Holkar at Bilwara in district of Dhar, from the 7th to 9th of November 1809.

The Ministers have determined to throw the infantry and guns and all their heavy baggage into Mahazur and with the whole of the cavalry to conduct Holkar to perform his devotions at Jejoory.

When the Ministers approached Holkar he began to throw his head about Balaram Sait, addressed the Deity by which he was possessed, and said that he had directed that Holkar should be taken to Jejoory and prostrated at his temple that Holkar had not strength enough to ride on horseback and that he must, therefore, be taken by short marches of two coss sometimes on an elephant and sometimes on a palanqueen, but that if the Deity would be graciously pleased to vouchsafe into him so much strength as would enable him to travel on horseback he might go with perfect ease and convenience to perform his devotions at Jejoory. Khande Rao replied by the tongue of Holkar. When your prince shall have crossed the Nerbudda he will be instantly restored to a sufficient degree of strength to enable him to ride on horseback. Holkar then appeared to come to his own senses again and ate some victuals.

Balaram Sait and Dharmajee Cheyla have dispatched orders to the Commanders of the Pindarahs directing them to join Holkar's Camp without delay and the Ministers have desired all the silledars and officers to be prepared to accompany Holkar. They replied that some arrangement must be made about their pay and that if that was done, they were ready to accompany Holkar wherever he might go. The Ministers assured them that their demands for pay should be settled and desired that they would be united among themselves.

Ganpat Rao and the others waited on the Baee Sahiba and told her that as it had been determined that they should march to the southward it would be necessary to write letters to the Peshwa and the English and to get answers from them, and that when that had been done whatever might seem to be expedient could be adopted. The Baee replied to the Ministers that that depended upon them that they might write and dispatch whatever letters they thought proper that the provision of funds for the expenses depended upon her and that whatever might be necessary should be expended.

The Ministers have determined to meet together tomorrow to arrange the necessary measures for the march to the southward.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident.

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Peshwa to Meer Khan, communicated to the Acting Resident on 23rd November 1809.

I have received the letter which you addressed to me. You say that you have with you a hundred thousand cavalry, and a park of artillery, prepared with every necessary equipment; that whatever directions I may give you, you will execute more faithfully than ever my old established servants; and that Jeswant Rao Holkar is in good health.

The professions of attachment which you have made towards me, I have comprehended, and I am induced by them to give you to understand that the relations of friendship and union between the state of His Highness the Nizam, the British Government and my own Government, are so firmly established by the obligations of Treaty that the three states are now completely identified. Any person who may adopt measures calculated to disturb the tranquillity of the dominions of any of the allied powers will be opposed and punished.

Information has been communicated to me that you have entered the country of the Rajah of Berar who is a Chieftain of my Government with your army, and have excited confusion and disorder in his territories. In this measure, I cannot discern any indictations of the attachment, which in your letter you have professed towards me. It is necessary that immediately on the receipt of this letter you retire with your whole Army out of the country of the Rajah of Berar, and that you avoid injuring or disturbing any of his subjects. Colonel Close also will address you on this subject.

HENRY RUSSELL,

Acting Resident.

Translation of a letter from Jeswant Rao Holkar to Chimnajee Appa, communicated to the Acting Resident on the 24th of November 1809.

To Shreemant Maharaj, who is powerful as the Deity, in dignity like Bhoje, Rajman, Rajeshwar, Appah Sahib, the constant worshipper of his feet Jeswant Rao Holkar humbly represents from Burgoonda.

The state of affairs here through your kindness is prosperous up to the 29th of Ramzan (9th November), I have not been......... with any letters from that quarter. It ought not to be so. With regard to the quarter the last seven years have passed in difficulty and the confusion of war has constantly prevailed. Notwithstanding this however, I have put down the English (Feringies). It is my intention to visit Jejoory but the English have occupied the Ghats in every direction. It does not singnify. It seems as if Khandu Pant my Vakeel and the English are of one mind. Whatever your pleasure may be communicate it to me fully. The whole empire (Raj) is gone to ruin, and nobody now remains to reward the services I have performed. It is well. My whole head was directed towards your footsteps. Three years have passed that I have remained unemployed. My health was bad but it is now restored. I have sent Rajeshree Bajee Venkatesh. Keep him near your person and send me full and particular letters. I will perform whatever orders you may give me. I will not deviate from your footsteps. Let your mind be satisfied of this. Write to me frequently. I was in expectation of letters but no information has arrived from you. I was tired of waiting and have, therefore, dispatched a Karkoon. I hope you will comply with the representations he will make to you. Do not let this counsel be known to anybody. If you give me orders to come to you quickly I will arrive with you in the space of eight days. I have lately dispatched my brother Meer Khan and I have an army consisting of near a lac and a half of troops. The pleasure of the Rao Sahib (the Peshwa) does not appear to be what it ought to be therefore I have sent this letter to you. I must take courage, I am looking with hope towards you. I shall dispatch for you two fine horses. I would send them immediately but I am not acquainted with your pleasure. You must write to me fully upon all subjects and do not allow these words to get abroad to any one. Balajee Venkateshwar will make representations to you and you will act according to the purport of them. Send me a letter immediately. My hopes are directed towards you, and I swear by the Deity that I will not deceive you. Write to me what is the number of the English troops.

What more can I write.

A true translation.

HENRY RUSSELL,
Acting Resident

Translation of a paper of intelligence from the Camp of Jeswant Rao Holkar at Bilwara in the district of Dhar, from the 9th to the 12th of November 1809.

Dharmajee Cheyla asked the Minister what plan they had arranged for conducting Holkar to Jejoory and told them that if they suffered any delay to occur, he would himself with the Infantry and the Paigah Horse accompany Holkar and take him there. Balaram Sait replied that they intended to address letters on the subject to the English and the Peshwa and that when they had received answers they would take the necessary measures for moving towards Jejoory. Dharmajee Cheyla said that so much delay was unnecessary for that a Vakeel had been sent on the part of Holkar to the English. The Baee Sahiba said that she agreed with Dharmajee Cheyla that much delay ought not to take place.

Balaram Sait then consulted with the Baee Sahiba about an arrangement for providing funds to defray the expense of the march to the southward and Dharmajee Cheyla desired Balaram Sait to settle with Silledar about their pay and said that he would himself satisfy the Infantry and Artillery that the arrangements for marching must be made immediately. The Baee Sahiba desired them to ascertain how much money would be required to provide for the pay of the Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry and said that an arrangement should then be made for providing it.

Holkar sent a message by a Hoozooreea to the Baee Sahiba complaining that although the Ministers came to him constantly he could not discover what their real intentions were, and desiring that she would send for them all and raise 25 lacs of rupees in the course of a few days for that he was positively resolved to go to Jejoory. The Baee Sahiba sent for Balaram Sait, Ganpat Sa, Koosajee Bukshi and Chimna Bhow and desired them to make an immediate arrangement for the march towards Jejoory reminding them that any delay that occured would be attended with ill consequences to the Ministers. That whatever might happen she was determined to go to Jejoory. The Ministers assure her that an arrangement for the march should be made immediately.

The army of Meer Khan has arrived near Jubbulpore, and he has written to Holkar that the English Troops were advancing towards Nagpur to attack him and has desired that a reinforcement may be sent to him.

To—LIEUT.-COLONEL LAWRENCE, COMMANDING AT POONA.

SIR,

With the view to prevent the probable recurrence of circumstances so unpleasant as those to which some of our officers were exposed on the 29th ultimo, it appeared to me to be particularly desirable that the troops under your command should be confined, as far as may be practicable, to the subjects of our own Government, and that all unnecessary communication should be prevented between them and the inhabitants of His Highness the Peshwa's country. I, therefore request, that you will have the goodness to issue an order, directing that no European Officer or soldier will either enter the town of Poona, or go within any of the garden in the vicinity of it, without having previously obtained the permission of Resident for that purpose.

I have the honour to be,

Poona:
Sir,

18th November 1809.
Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY RUSSELL,

Acting Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 3.—The letter contains the information that Meer Khan had taken charge of Holkar's Government as a result of a court intrigue. This creates a new problem for the defences of Berar and Bhonsla's territories.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

To—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Camp near Hoshangabad, the 19th April 1810.

I have the honour to acknowledge your dispatches dated 30th March and 4th instant.

The third division of troops under Lt.-Colonel Conran, was to reach Multai on the 17th instant. He has been obliged to march with caution, on account of the scarcity of water on his route. The 1st and 2nd Regiments of N. Cavalry have been directed to proceed to Hyderabad, which I have had the honour to report to the Quarter-Master General of the Army for the information of Government. The 1st division which marched under Lieut.-Colonel

Hare, the 1st Regiment N. Cavalry excepted, continues at a position near Amraoti, until I learn the result of the late overture from the Rajah of Nagpur to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General proposing that a British force should be permanently stationed in his territory, to the northward of the Nerbudda.

I had formerly the honour to intimate my intention to make enquiries of Sadik Ali Khan with the view to ascertain whether the vicinity of Barree contains a spot of ground on which a British force could be conveniently cantoned. Different situations have been examined and one in particular about 18 miles to the eastward of Barree would answer well, were it not that the soil is of the black kind and would be accordingly very inconvenient, and probably unhealthy during the rains. My enquiries still proceed, but I understand that the soil on the northern bank of the Nerbudda, is all of the exceptionable kind above-mentioned. Immediately at Barree which is well supplied with water, the soil is harder, but the salubrity of the situation may be doubted of as it is closed to a range of hills.

A few days since, an Akhbar arrived from the Dak writer at Ujjain mentioning that a letter had been just received by a Soucar in the city stating that Tulsi Bai, Balaram Seth and Koosabah Bukshi had succeeded in seducing the officers in general of Holkar's Infantry, and obtaining a promise from them to seize the persons of Dharmajee Koor, Sobharam Choudhary, and their adherents, on condition that their arrears should be discharged by Meer Khan. That Tulsi Bai and Balaram Seth had accordingly communicated their plot to Meer Khan, and invited him to repair to Holkar's camp with all haste, attended by two or three thousand horse. That he immediately accepted the invitation, and hastened to Camp, and had a meeting with Tulsi Bai, on which the whole plot was carried into effect, in consequence whereof Meer Khan succeeded to the charge of the Government, a division of the troops under Mohammed Shah Khan, having marched to join him.

This moment I have received a dispatch from Mr. Mercer dated 5th generally confirming the above intelligence, and containing a detailed statement of the force under Mohammed Shah Khan, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose, in order to be submitted to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

That so large a force should have accummulated so rapidly and be regularly subsisted by the Government of Jodhpore, is but too strong a proof of the fluctuation, which almost constantly attends the political relations of the Native powers in India. When lately in adversity Meer Khan raised contribution on, or rather collected the revenue of Sindhia's districts with impunity. He has now become master of the recources of Holkar's territories, and this circumstance added to the union of interests which holds between him and Mohammed Shah Khan can scarcely fail to give him an ascendancy in the Council of Sindhia who will naturally become more disposed to support his designs than oppose them. Thus if Meer Khan's ambition increase with his success there will be no serious check to it, but the political wisdom and power of the British Government.

I have the honour to be,

Camp near Hoshangabad :
The 19th April 1810.

Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
B. CLOSE,
Colonel.

To—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

SIR,

I had the honour to address you on the 30th ultimo.

In consequence of the wishes expressed in your former dispatches of having as full and accurate an account as could be procured of the Army under Mohammed Shah Khan, I sent an intelligent native to his camp for the purpose of furnishing me with a detailed statement of it; and have now the honour to enclose a translation of his report, and as sketch of Mohammed Shah Khan's present encampment. From this Army a force of fourteen battalions of Infantry, with 55 guns, and a large body of horse, is stated to have marched some days ago to join Meer Khan.

I have had no regular accounts from Holkar's army for a week past; owing it appears to the Pindaries having cut off the communication. Reports have, however, been current for two days which are I understand confirmed by advices received by Sindhia this morning that Meer Khan after having succeeded in seducing a part of Holkar's Army had seized the person of Balaram Seth, Dharmajee Koor, and Sobharam Chaudhary of the Artillery, and that the two latter had been subsequently put to death, with the connivance or even, it is said, by the orders of Tulsi Bai.

These events have excited a considerable alarm in this Durbar although it is not probable that any active measures will be pursued, for the purpose of preventing the consolidation of Meer Khan's power, and influence in Holkar's Army, but that, on the contrary, every means will be used to conciliate, and to obviate the necessity of a rupture with him.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Sindhia's Camp,
on the Bunnass river:

The 5th April 1810.

Your most obedient humble servant,
G. MERCER,
Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 4.—This is a covering note to a copy of Edmonstone's letter to C. T. Metcalfe, Resident at Delhi, dated 27th November 1811. In this letter Edmonstone directs Metcalfe not to promote the application of Malhar Rao, the minor son of the late Jeswant Rao, for investiture from the Emperor of Delhi. The reason is that the Emperor under the British protection enjoys no imperial authority except in name, and that such a practice had long been discontinued. Malhar Rao may however have the titles that were conferred upon his late father.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 27th November 1811.

I am directed to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of a letter of this date addressed under the authority of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to the Resident at Delhi.

TO—C. T. METCALFE, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT DELHI.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 10th instant desiring the instructions of Government for the guidance of your conduct in the event of your receiving an application on the part of Malhar Rao Holkar for a Khillat and grant of the Titles held by his father from the *Throne* of Delhi.

2. In the course of the correspondence with your predecessor on the subject of His Majesty's assumption of regal authority with relation to the states and princes of Hindustan, the specific question of His Majesty's being permitted to grant Khillats of investiture and confirmation in the succession to principalities and dominions was brought under discussions, and it was determined that the exercise of this authority was incompatible with the situation in which the king had been placed and with the obligation of policy. The grant of a Khillat of investiture on the part of the king therefore, in favour of Malhar Rao, is inadmissible; accordingly in the event of your receiving the application described in your letter you will return for answer that under existing order of things, an investiture from the Throne of Delhi could add no validity to the succession of Malhar Rao and would merely occasion an unnecessary expense. That the practice has long been discontinued and the Nabobs of the Deccan, of the Karnatic, and of Bengal with various other Chiefs have succeeded to the Musnad without the formality of a Khillat of investiture and that you are therefore precluded from promoting any application to the king on the present occasion. You will at the same time be careful to explain

that in thus obstructing the execution of this useless formality, it is by no means the intention of the British Government to dispute the validity of Malhar Rao's succession; that on the principle of not interfering in the concerns of states unconnected with us by the obligations of defensive alliances, the British Government does not assume to itself the authority either to confirm or dispute titles of succession to the Government of those states, and consequently will be ready to recognize the succession of Malhar Rao by those intercourses of amity and correspondence which subsisted with his late father.

3. The objection which opposes the grant of Khillats of investiture on the part of the king does not apply to the grant of titles which, as you are aware, has been admitted through the Agency of the British Government in favour of the Nabobs of the Deccan, of the Karnatic and of Bengal and in any other instances. You will, therefore, explain this exception and signify to the party conveying this application that you are authorized to request from His Majesty the transfer to Malhar Rao of the title conferred on his late father, when he shall have been established on the Musnad.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort William:
The 27th November 1811.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

BUNDELKHAND

Letter No. 1.—Jenkins refers to the letter he had received from the Secretary to the Governor-General regarding the Zamindar of Shah Nagar who had plundered certain Deccanee merchant's goods and wants to know the names of the border districts under the British protection.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—J. RICHARDSON, ESQUIRE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND.

Nagpur, the 25th November 1807.

I have received from Mr. Secretary Edmonstone copies of your dispatch and its enclosures dated 8th September on the subject of the plunder of the Deccanee merchants by the Zamindar of Shawnugger, and the measures adopted by you to obtain restitution of the property a copy of the instructions issued to you in reply by Government has also been forwarded to me.

As the Rajah of Berar has asserted a supremacy over the Zamindar of Shawnugger which place is included in the sunnud granted by Government to Kishore Singh Rajah of Punnah, it is of importance to me to be fully informed on the question. This Government also claims a superiority over some other Bundela Chief in the same quarter who it appears give continual annoyance to that frontier of the Raja's dominions.

I should therefore be obliged by your having the goodness to furnish me with such information as you may possess relative to the Zamindar of Shawnugger, and it would be useful to me to be acquainted with the names of such districts as are under our protection, immediately on the southern frontier of the province of Bundelkund.

I shall do myself the honour of forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Secretary Edmonstons.

Letter No. 2.—This is enclosere No. 2 to the letter from Richardson to Edmonstone, dated 6th December. Richardson explains the position of the Zamindar of Shahnagar vis-a-vis the Bhonsla of Nagpur and the British Government, and recommends immediate attack on the Zamindar with a view to expelling him.

FROM—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

Banda, the 12th October 1807.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 21st ultimo in reply to my report under date the 6th of the same month in the case of the Mirjapore merchants plundered by Bahadur Singh at Shahnagar.

2. In reply to the 3rd para. communicating the orders of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council, directing me to ascertain the ground of the Rajah of Berar's asserted supremacy over the Zamindary of Shahnagar, I have the honour to state from the best information possible that no ground whatever exists whereon the Rajah of Berar can found or assert a supremacy over the Zamindary of Shahnagar.

3. The statement exhibited in the preceding para. of your letter as containing the Rajah of Berar's declaration that although the Zamindar of Shahnagar is nominally subject to his authority he entertained no hope of Zamindar's attention to his orders, is perhaps correct so far as respects the person of the Zamindar who may possibly hold lands under the Rajah of Berar's authority distinct from the Zamindary of Shahnagar.

4. The Zamindary of Shahnagar, the place where the merchants property was and is forcibly detained, is within the limits of Bundelkhand and included in the shares of Chittersen, the great and ancient chief from which (sic) all acknowledged weight in the province springs; it fell to the share of Herdeesaw and is now included in the sunnud of Rajah Kishore Singh of Panna granted to him as heir to the Herdeesha family by the British Government. The asserted supremacy of the Rajah of Berar over the Zamindary of Shahnagar is therefore totally unfounded and inadmissible.

5. The idea of the Rajah of Berar's nominal authority over the Zamindar in question may have arisen from Bahadur Singh having always taken shelter in the Rajah of Berar's possession, whenever any matter of dispute arose or he was pressed by any of the Bundela Chiefs on the orders of the particular chief to whose Government his Zamindary was subject, and *vice versa* if he had any cause of apprehension from the Government or Chiefs of Berar.

6. In the 3rd para. of your letter I am directed to submit my opinion to Government of the expediency of employing for the expulsion of Bahadur Singh and the establishment of Kishore Singh

in Shahnagar the services of detachment under orders to march for the purpose of putting Rajah Bakht Bullie in possession of the country included in his sunnud after that object shall have been attained.

7. In obedience to the above orders I have the honour to state that in my opinion it will be most expedient, most wise and most necessary to employ the detachment for the expulsion of Bahadur Singh immediately upon the present object of its movement being attained and I conceive the occasion so favourable that I had determined to address Government on that very subject when the receipt of your letter anticipated my submission of the proposition.

8. It is proper to state that the pergunnah of Kotra and Powey are in the neighbourhood of Shahnagar and the expulsion of Bahadur Singh can be effected with great facility and with little loss of time.

9. There is, from my intelligence, a Mud Fort of some strength at Shahnagar in which Bahadur Singh resides and secrets or guards his plunder. It will therefore be necessary should Government determine to expel Bahadur Singh to order two 18 pounders, or one 18 and one 12 pounder with the usual complement of ammunition and men to work them to join the detachment as early as practicable. I believe Battering guns of the weight I have mentioned are in store in the Fortress of Kalpee; the detail of men etc., may possibly be least supplied from Cawnpore.

10. This measure I strongly recommend not only to ensure success by rendering resistence vain but also with a view to the complete attainment of the present object of the detachments march the establishments of Rajah Bukht Bullie and the entire removal of the means of future annoyance from Gopal Singh the usurper. There is one Mud Fort of some strength at the foot of the hills situated at a place called Selaha Gunge in which Gopal Singh at present has his women and family. The village near is very large and populous. I am not certainly informed whether this fort is situated within the limits included in Rajah Bukht Bullies sunnud or in the possession granted to Rajah Kishore Singh but in whichever it may be situated there can be little doubt but that it will become the retreat of Gopal Singh upon the detachment driving him from the open country of Kotra and Powey.

11. For the above considerations I recommend strongly that two Battering guns as suggested be ordered to join the detachment with as little delay as possible. The expense is not for one instant to be put in competition with the immense and immediate advantages with which the measure is fraught and cannot fail to produce whether with respect to the establishment of general and permanent tranquillity and good order the benefits arising from removing such an obstacle to commerce.

12. It is not by any means necessary that the movement of the detachment should be delayed for the junction of the Battering guns should Government be pleased to adopt the suggestion. They

can be sent after the detachment and a sufficient escort sent back to meet them. It is possible that they may not be required that point will be better judged of as the operations proceed and matters open themselves. In that case the labour of bringing the guns up the Ghats may be spared but I deem it indispensable to the certain attainment of the objects of the detachment to have the battering guns proposed, within the reach and at the command of the Detachment.

13. Before I conclude I beg leave to state in reply to the injunction not to relax in my endeavours to obtain restitution of the property plundered from the Deccani merchants, that if it shall be the pleasure of Government to determine on the expulsion of Bahadur Singh, it will, in my humble opinion, be prudent not to renew any admonition on the subject of the restitution of the property, in that case, the knowledge of the movement of the detachment might induce his securing the property, whereas by a sudden and unexpected movement, the property may be recovered.

14. That no time may be lost I forward this letter by express. I have endeavoured to obey the orders of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General as fully as possible and I trust my opinion suggestions and reasoning will meet with his approbation.

Letter No. 3.—Jenkins conveys an assurance from Bhonsla that there will be no interference by his troops on the northern border of his kingdom adjoining Bundelkhand when operations start against Bhadaur Singh of Shahnagar.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND.

Nagpur, the 18th December 1807.

I mentioned in my private letter of yesterday the communication I had received from the Minister of the Rajah of Berar, that a Karkoon had been sent to you by the Rajah's officer on the frontier. I am this day informed that two persons named Mandu Khan jemadar and Tejsingh Lala have been dispatched in that capacity and that they will convey anything you may have to intimate to the commanders of the Rajah's troops in that quarter, who have been expressly enjoined to abstain from any kind of proceeding which might in any way interfere with your measures or cause any clashing between the officers of the respective Governments. The Rajah also trusts that he shall receive the earliest intimation should the slightest misconduct occur on the part of any of his people in your neighbourhood.

A duplicate of this letter will go to the Karkoons, as their credential.

Letter No. 4.—Richardson reports that Bahadur Singh Zamindar of Shahgarh had been expelled and the territory had been handed over to the Chief of Punna.

FROM—J. RICHARDSON ESQUIRE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 7th January 1808.

I have the honour to inform you that Bahadur Singh has been expelled the Zamindary of Shahagarh. On the morning of the 25th ultimo the Detachment forced and ascended the Ghat into the district of Shahagarh. Bahadur Singh had attempted to defend the Ghat and prevent the ascent of the Detachment. By a judicious and spirited attack his people were immediately routed and dispersed with considerable loss, in killed and wounded, and only three sepoys wounded in our part.

2. The affair of the Ghat made a great impression on the mind of Bahadur Singh's people and I determined to follow up the blow, while that impression was forcible. I accordingly pressed on to Jodhpore and took possession thereof on the morning of the 27th ultimo, the fort having been evacuated the preceding night and found about one-third of the merchant's property in the place. On the 31st Thanagarh was taken possesion of in the same way but no property except 5 bullocks loads of peper and one of turmerics was found in the last place.

3. I had no occasion to make any requisition to the Rajah of Berar's officers. I did not want their assistance and the reasons of my troubling you with a correspondence on the present occasion was a wish to prevent the possibility of any interference or clashing that might tend to embroil the British and Berar Governments.

4. The two men you mentioned in your letter of the 18th ultimo arrived and delivered me the duplicate thereof, as you stated. I have given them their audience of leave a Khilat suitable to their rank and situation, with a few private lines of your address and a complimentary persian letter to Shankar Gangadhar in reply to one of the same description received from him.

5. It may be proper to add that the forts of Shahgarh and Jodhpore and the Zamindary of Shahgarh, have been delivered over to the young Rajah of Panna, Kishore Singh, being his hereditary property and confirmed to him, by a sunnad granted by the British Government. I am quite certain that the Rajah of Berar's claim to the above Zamindary on the closest scrutiny will be found totally inadmissible.

6. Should the claim be urged the respective Governments will amicably discuss and decide the matter, and I shall think it my duty to supply the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General with proofs and information, to enable Government to meet the discussion and the result attempted to be produced by the Rajah's Government.

Letter No. 5.—Edmonstone explains that the Rajah of Berar cannot claim Shahnagar which had been given to Kishore Singh as of hereditary right. But in the enclosure, which is a letter he wrote to Richardson, he suggests the possibility of exchange of some territories on the basis of which Kishore Singh may part with Shahnagar in favour of the Bhonsla.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 18th January 1808.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 7 dated the 24th utlimo reporting in detail your communications with the Ministers of the Rajah on the subject of the Zamindary of Shahnagar, and to signify to you the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council's entire approbation of the tenor of the arguments and replies which you addressed to the Ministers on that subject.

2. The Governor-General in Council is decidedly of opinion that a mere casual and temporary possession cannot with any degree of justice be opposed to acknowledged hereditary right and that the claim of the Rajah is untenable on any ground of equity. It is evident also that this claim would never have been advanced by the Rajah, if it had not been suggested to him by an application on the part of the British Government for the redress of the injury sustained by the merchants of Mirzapur addressed to His Highness under an erroneous supposition, that the district of Shahnagar formed a part of his established dominions and by the march of a British Detachment in that direction.

3. A sunnud for the hereditary possessions of his family having been granted to Rajah Kishore Singh and the district of Shahnagar unquestionably forming a part of those possessions, it must be evident to Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla that the British Gov-

ernment is deprived of every plea of justice on which to abrogate the obligation of that sunnud as it respects the district in question. However ardent and sincere, therefore, may be its disposition to augment the resources or dominion of His Highness, the British Government possesses in the present case no option, and it is consequently impracticable to transfer the district of Shahnagar to the possession of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla excepting only in the improbable event of Rajah Kishore Singh being disposed to relinquish it. A proposition to that effect could not even with strict propriety be made to the latter, unless an equivalent were offered to him and the offer of an equivalent which should involve a sacrifice on the part of the British Government could not reasonably be expected for the mere purpose of satisfying an unfounded claim on that of the Rajah; a claim, which even if His Highness originally supposed himself to possess, would certainly have continued dormant had it not been excited by an application the consequence of our right and error.

4. But however unpromising the prospect of success in attempting the accomplishment of any agreement with Rajah Kishore Singh for the surrender of his right to the district of Shahnagar, a desire to gratify His Highness has induced the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to issue instructions (of which a copy is enclosed) to the Agent in Bundelkhand directing him to take into consideration the practicability of effecting such an arrangement with Rajah Kishore Singh.

5. You will observe that Mr. Richardson is directed to transmit to you a copy of his reply to those instructions; from which you will be enabled to judge of the probability of success. You will not however apprize the Rajah of the adoption of this measure in his favour and if you should not find it practicable to withhold a communication of the decision of Government until the issue of the reference to Mr. Richardson shall be made known to you either by a report from Mr. Richardson of the absolute impracticability of the suggested arrangement or by the communication of the resolution of Government on any proposition which in consequence of that reference Mr. Richardson may be enabled to submit to its consideration, you will be pleased to state to the Rajah the sentiments of the Governor-General in Council on the subject of His Highness's claim in the manner described at the commencement of this dispatch, omitting however any allusion to the practicability of an arrangement with Raja Kishore Singh for the transfer of the district to His Highness, since any intimation upon that subject would excite additional hopes and expectations and eventually produce additional disappointment.

6. You will no doubt have received from Mr. Richardson the intelligence of the complete explusion of Rajah Bahadur Singh from the district of Shahnagar.

7. I am directed to take this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 29th ultimo enclosing copies of your letters of the 16th and 18th of that month to Mr. Richardson.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William :
The 18th January 1808.

To—J. RICHARDSON, ESQUIRE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you for your information and guidance the enclosed copies of a dispatch from the Acting Resident at Nagpur and of the reply of this date.

2. From the latter document you will observe that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council is anxious if practicable to effect an arrangement with Rajah Kishore Singh which will admit of the transfer of the district of Shahnagar to the dominion of the Rajah of Berar and I am accordingly directed to desire that you will turn your attention to the practicability of effecting such an arrangement without involving any territorial or pecuniary sacrifice on the part of the British Government.

3. It is possible that some of the districts above the Ghats which the British Government has no desire to retain may be assignable to Rajah Kishore Singh in exchange for Shahnagar or that your local knowledge may suggest some other practicable arrangement for the transfer of that district to the Rajah of Berar. You will be pleased to report upon this subject without delay transmitting a copy of your report to the Acting Resident at Nagpur.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
N. B. EDMONSTONE.
Secretary to Government.

Fort William :
The 18th January 1808.

Letter No. 6.—Jenkins reports that Arjun Singh the son of the Chief of Garha Kota had come to pay him a visit in spite of his declining to interfere in the dispute between the Chief of Garha Kota and the Bhonsla.

FROM—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, IN BUNDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 4th March 1811.

In order to prevent any misconception, on the part of the Rajah of Berar, that might arise from misrepresentation of the circumstance, I have the honour to state that Arjun Singh, the son of the Rajah of Garha Kota, without any previous communication, came to pay me a visit at Banda; and that on finding that the above person was within a few Coss of Banda, I addressed to him, No. 1 from which you will perceive, that Rajah Murdan Singh had before been officially informed that the British Government would not interfere in his disputes with the Government of Berar.

2. The young Chief Arjun Singh notwithstanding my letter No. 1 still persisted in coming on to Banda; and impelled by a spirit of humanity . . . . delicacy which I conceived to be in accordance with the sentiments and wishes of the British Government, I deemed it my duty to receive Arjun Singh in the manner suited to his rank amongst the Bundela Chiefs. At the same time, I thought it proper in conformity to a principle of strict . . . . and to prevent misconception to address a letter to all the Bundela Chiefs, explanatory of Arjun Singh's wish, and the determination of the British Government, with respect to the disputes existing between Mardan Singh and the Berar Government in the terms contained in No. 2 which I forward for your information, and request that you will use this letter and its enclosures as may appear to you proper under the circumstances of the case.

Letter No. 7.—Richardson reports the activities of the rebel Gopal Singh and how the subjects of the Bhonsla have been aiding him. He urges Jenkins to move the Bhonsla's Government to punish them. He also reports that when Col. Jean Baptiste, Sindhia's officer, arrived at Garha Kota, Bhonsla's troops raised the seige and went away thus leaving Garha Kota to fall into the hands of the Sindhia.

FROM—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, IN BUNDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 9th June 1811.

The rebel Gopal Singh having again issued from his hiding place and collected a fresh Banditti; and this public enemy of all regular Government being aided and abetted by the subjects of the

Berar Government in a manner highly criminal with relation to that Government and offensive and inimical to the British Government, I deem it my duty to communicate to you the enclosed list and statement of the subjects of the Berar Rajah who assist the Rebel.

2. This information I have taken some pains to acquire, and though it may not be correct as to every particular which is hardly to be expected, from the mode in which even the best intelligence is always acquired in this country, I believe its outlines and general purport to be true, and in that belief as a public officer, I solicit your decided interference on the part of the British Government to excite that of Berar to an effective exertion of its authority to punish subjects, for a conduct so inimical to the British Government (which has evinced such firm and protecting freindship to that of Nagpur) and to . . . . the continuance of shelter and assistance to a general plunderer, equally the enemy of all regular Governments.

3. Unless some effectual means to remedy this evil are adopted on the part of the Berar Government, it must be obvious how vain all efforts on the part of the British Government to suppress this active rebel must prove from the nature of the country and the facility with which, he can elude pursuits and gain some of his numerous places of asylum.

4. I conclude you are informed of the transactions which took place at Garrah Kota, and the raising of the seige and retreat of the Berar Troops, from the interference of Colonel Jean Baptiste, one of Sindhia's Officers. Should any events be likely to arise from this aggression of Sindhia, against the Berar Government, which may probably affect matters on the borders of the province, or in which the British interests in Bundelkhand may be involved, I rely upon your giving me timely intimation.

J. RICHARDSON,
A. G .G.

Banda :
The 9th June 1811.

MISCELLANEOUS

Letter No. 1.—This official letter indicates the rate of exchange between (a) Sonaut, (b) Nagpur and (c) Zerbee rupees

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—CAPTAIN HAMILTON.

Nagpur, the 1st February 1807.

You are apprized of the reference which was formerly made to Government on the subject of the batta of the Escort. As no answer has yet been received and as the men must naturally be under some anxiety respecting the issue of the enquiry which it was promised them, should be made, I have deemed it proper in concert with Mr. Elphinstone to fix the batta upon our joint authority without waiting the result of that reference.

It appears upon enquiry that the difference between the Sonaut and the Nagpur current Rupee is about 10 Rupees and 3 annas per cent in favour of the Sonaut. Taking this to be the average difference and considering the high price of grain we are satisfied that batta, a little above the estimate, is absolutely necessary to save the men from loss; and we have accordingly fixed it at 10¼ per cent, as a permanent arrangement.

The difference between the Nagpur current and Zerbee coins is 2 per cent in favour of the latter. As the men have been hitherto paid in Zerbee rupee the actual difference to be made good to them will therefore upon the above principle be only 8¼ per cent. You will be good enough to communicate this arrangement to the men together with the principles upon which it has been adjusted, and you will be pleased in future to draw the pay of the Escort according to the rate above specified. You are also authorized to draw the arrears which will appear due to the officers and men according to this settlement.

I have the honour, to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Nagpur:
1st February 1807.

R. JENKINS,
Acting Resident at Nagpur.

Letter No. 2.—The letter gives an idea of how people went on pilgrimage in those days. Hari Pant Patwardhan was "an Officer of considerable rank" under Poona Government.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Nagpur, the 6th February 1807.

I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council that Hari Pant Patwardhan with a very large body of pilgrims has this day arrived at Nagpur on his route from the Deccan to Benares. I have granted him passports for himself and suite according to the following list which he has sent to me:—

2,000 Tuttoos.
150 Palankees.
1 Elephant.
90 Camels.
300 Bullocks.
400 Suwars.
10,000 Pilgrims.

The Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council has of course been apprized by Colonel Close from whom Hari Pant has a passport of the intended journey of this body of Pilgrims to the Company's provinces and I am informed by Hari Pant's Vakeel that an exemption from duties at Benares, Gaya and Allahabad has been solicited by Colonel Close for that Chief. I have also been requested to address Government on the subject and to convey to Hari Pant any answer with which I may be honoured. I have therefore to solicit that the determination of the Governor-General in Council may be communicated to me, as soon as may be convenient. Hari Pant will proceed in a few days on his march to the Provinces.

Letter No. 3.—The enclosure is a report of a Hindu-Muslim riot that happened in Delhi on 1st May 1807. The riot was started by the Muslims because they were wrongly told that a Hindu banker wanted to take out in procession an idol to instal it in a temple outside the city. This is interesting because it is one of the earliest instances of Hindu-Muslim riots.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 21st May 1807.

Adverting to the exaggeration and misrepresentations which generally tend the diffusion of intelligence regarding any incidental disturbance within the limits of the Company's dominions, I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed extract from a dispatch dated the 1st instant from the Resident at Delhi communicating the circumstances of an affray which occurred at the city between the Musalmans and Hindus in consequence of an erroneous apprehension on the part of the former of an intended processional formality of a nature calculated to offend the religious prejudices of the class of Mussalmans. At the date of our latest advises, perfect tranquillity prevailed in the city of Delhi, and no apprehension entertained of the renewal of disturbance, the cause of which was soon understood to have originated in error.

Extract from a letter from the Resident at Delhi to the Secretary to the Government in the Political Department under date the 1*st May* 1807.

Under the circumstances of its being my duty to report to you, for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council, that a disturbance took place here today, in which several lives were lost, it is peculiarly gratifying to me to be able to add that it appears to be completely suppressed.

The disturbance originated in an erroneous supposition, on the part of the lower classes of the Mohammedan inhabitants, that Harsukh Roy a considerable, native banker, intended to convey an Idol, from a Hindu Temple in the city of Delhi to a place prepared for its reception at some distance from the town, in a manner, and with a degree of processional pomp, which, from its being unusual, would have been offensive to the feelings of the Musalmans. This had indeed been at one time, in the contemplation of Harsukh, but as I found, that it would be disagreeable to the bulk of the inhabitants, I dissuaded him from it, and he agreed to desist from his original idea conveying the Image in procession through the streets, and in lieu of the plan to adopt that of conveying it privately, through the city, and to commence the procession at some distance from the gates. Unfortunately however some uninformed, or evil intentioned, Mohammedans believing, or affecting to believe, that Harsukh Lal still intended to adhere to his original design, assembled, and by an impetuous declaration that it was a matter which nearly concerned the Musalmans' religion soon collected in great number of persons of that persuasion who attacked Harsukh Roy's house, and committed many outrageous acts.

During this time I was at the Kutub Shah Minar, whither I had gone to attend the Princes in performing at the tomb of the late King, the ceremonies, prescribed by Mohammedan religion, in the sixth month from the day of enterment. My absence however did not occasion any inconvenience, as the judgment, energy and spirit of Mr. Metcalfe induced him to adopt the measures, which the circumstances of the case required and which happily succeeded in quelling the tumult.

The accounts of the disturbance reached me at the Kutub Shah Minar, about 1 o'clock, the place being only about twelve miles from Delhi, I immediately mounted my horse and hastened to the city. As yet uninformed of the state of matters I went straight to the palace, to explain to His Majesty the measures which I thought it necessary to adopt, for the suppression of the tumult; on reaching the palace I found that Mr. Metcalfe had already proceeded thither with the same intention, as I understood that numbers of Mohammedans had assembled at the Jamah Mosque, where they had displayed the green flag, the sight of which ever tend to inflame the feelings of Mohammedans upon similar occasions. I thought it my duty to proceed thither, to dissuade them from acts of further violence, and accordingly went from the palace to the Mosque, accompanied by Mr. Metcalfe and explained to the most respectable part of those who were there assembled how wrong and how dangerous to themselves it was, I reminded them that if my advice were not complied with, I shall on the following day order what I then only recommended. I am happy to say that the mob has left the Mosque, and that the inflammatory standard is no longer displayed.

There are several prisoners in custody, who were taken in the act of plundering. With respect to these men I conceive a regular trial must take place, as otherwise a similar disturbance may be expected to recur.

I have observed that the disturbance is quelled, and I have infinite satisfaction in stating that the accounts which I have received from different quarters of the city since I began this dispatch, warrant my repeating that assurance. I trust it will not be considered as inconsistent with that declaration, if I add that I mean to apply to the Commanding Officer at Meerut, for a military force to continue here until the issue of the investigation be known.

A true extract.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 4.—The letter conveys the remission of duties levied on the pilgrims at Allahabad, Benares and Gaya in favour of Krishnam Bhut Appa and 412 of his followers. This shows that there were pilgrim taxes in vogue.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 30th November 1807.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant submitting the solicitations made on the part of Krishnam Bhut Appa Purohit for a remission of duties levied on pilgrims resorting to Gaya, Allahabad and Benares, in favour of himself and 412 followers, and to inform you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to order an exemption of duties levied at Gaya and Allahabad, in favour of Krishnam Bhut and his followers. No duty of that description is levied at Benares.

2. The usual certificate will be transmitted to you from the Persian Department for the purpose of being delivered to Krishnam Bhut.

Letter No. 5.—The letter refers to a communal disturbance in Benares, started by the Muslims against the Hindus.

FROM—W. A. BROOKE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BENARES.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Benares, the 26th October 1809.

A dispute having taken place in this city between the Hindus and Musalmans, attended with the loss of many lives, and the destruction of a temple held most sacred by the former, and of an Imambara and a Musjid of the latter, I deem it expedient in order to obviate the bad effects of exaggerated accounts which will most probably be circulated, to acquaint you that the disturbance has subsided and that I entertain hopes that the measures which have been adopted will prevent the renewal of it.

From the contradictory reports I have as yet received, I have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain the origin of the quarrel, but it seems generally believed that the Musalmans were the first aggressors and they appear to have been much the greatest sufferers, I imagine that about one hundred of them have been killed.

Letter No. 6.—Interesting information about the price of food-grain is contained in this letter. One Amraoti Khandi of grains was equal to 1¾ of Nagpur Khandis which were selling at Rs. 4.

FROM—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

Nagpur, the 25th November 1809.

I have the honour to inform you that Jeswant Rao visited me today, and brought with him the two principal persons who have the superintendence of the Banjaries in this quarter. I lose no time in mentioning to you the terms which they require in order that I may receive your instructions on the subjects.

First they agree to send immediately 1,000 Khandies of Chana, and 500 of rice to your Camp which they will sell at whatever be the Bazar rate, and they only require the remission of all duties on the carriage and sale of it. This is all that they can immediately furnish.

Secondly, they engage to furnish 5,000 additional Khandies of grain, 3,000 of rice and 2,000 of Chana, on the following terms. They require an advance of cash from me equal to one-half of the prime cost. On this sum they agree to grant a compensation in either of these two modes:—

(1) If the grain is sold in the Camp Bazar at the regulated market price, they will pay in together with the original sum advanced, one-third of their profits on it, after deducting the prime cost of 2,500 Khandies or half of the convoy and the expenses of conveyance.

(2) If taken for the Company they engage to sell their grain to the same extent at the rate of 4 rupees per Khandi less than the actual market price at the time.

They make these terms supposing the British Camp to be in Berar, but would expect some modification of them if it moves to the northward, where grain might be cheaper and they will continue to furnish grain to any extent without expecting for the advances.

The first 1,500 Khandies, they agree to complete in your Camp at Amraoti in 25 days from this date; out of the 5,000 Khandies, 2,500 in a month from the time of receiving the advance, and the remaining moiety in one month more.

I am afraid there is no possibility of obtaining better terms in this quarter, as these persons have the disposal of all the Banjaries in the country and consequently have a monopoly which enables them to impose their own terms in the present instance. I wait to learn your opinion on the subject, and also hope to be favoured with your instructions with regard to the quantities of grain which may be absolutely necessary to be periodically furnished for the consumption of your force, from this quarter.

I have to remark that the Amraoti Khandi is equal to 1¾ Khandis of this country. The quantities agreed for are Nagpur Khandies, but the 4 rupees per Khandi which they engage to remit relates to the Amraoti one.

Letter No. 7.—The prices of grains are interesting to show how they stood about 140 years back in a military camp where prices of grains are generally very high.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—CAPTAIN W. I. JONE, LATE COMMISSARY OF GRAIN WITH COLONEL CLOSE'S CAMP.

Nagpur, the 21st November 1810.

Grain forwarded to Colonel Close's Camp in the month of March 1810.

RICE

		Rs.	a.	p.
253 Khandis and 10 Coodoos of Buggur at Rs. 12 per Khandi	..	3,042	0	0
88 Khandis 15 Kudoos of Buggur at Rs. 9-12-0 per Khandi	..	865	5	0
342 Khandis 5 Kudoos of Buggur	..	3907	5	0

GRAM

		Rs.	a.	p.
69 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 10-0-0 per Khandi	..	695	6	0
200 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chans at Rs. 2-13-0 per Khandi	..	1,950	0	0
455 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 9-10-0 ber Khandi	..	4,379	6	0
20 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 9-8-0 per Khandi	..	190	0	0
550 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 9-0-0 per Khandi	..	4,950	0	0
50 Khandis 10 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 8-9-0 per Khandi	..	428	2	0
187 Khandis 15 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 8-8-0 per Khandi	..	4,595	14	9
45 Khandis 5 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 8 per Khandl	..	362	0	0
8 Khandis 5 Kuros of Chana at Rs. 8-2-0 per Khandi	..	67	2	9
1,585 Khandis 15 Kuros	..	14,617	8	0
Total	..	18,524	13	9
1,928 Khandis (Hire) for carriage paid at Nagpur	..	13,496	0	9
Total expense	..	32,020	13	9

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ERRATA

Page 53, *Letter No.* 32, *Line* 2.—*Read* "ordered" *for* "order".

Page 107.—*Read* page "107" *for* "167".

Page 240, *Letter No.* 11, *Line* 2.—*Read* "intimates" *for* "intimate".

Page 388, *Letter No.* 29, *Line* 7.—*Read* "disturbed" *for* "decumated".

Page 408, *Letter No.* 7, *Line* 1.—*Read* "letter" *for* "Letteer".

Page 487, *Letter No.* 25—

Line 2.—*Read* "28th" *for* "20th".

Line 9.—*Read* "acquaint" *for* "acquire".

Line 11.—*Read* "Elphinstone's" *for* "his".

Page 581, *Line* 5.—*Read* "Jones" *for* "Jone".